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Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Economic and Social Council the report of the Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS or "the Programme"), prepared pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/18.

Report by the Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

Summary

The present report was prepared in response to Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/18, in which the Secretary-General was requested to transmit to the Council at its substantive session of 2005 a report prepared by the Executive Director of the Programme, in collaboration with other relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, which should include the progress made in developing the coordinated response by the United Nations system to the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

The report provides an update of the status of the epidemic; summarizes steps taken by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS to promote the implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS adopted by the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on HIV/AIDS in June 2001; summarizes other key developments in advancing a more effective and coordinated United Nations system response to the epidemic; and takes account of the decisions, recommendations and conclusions of the Programme Coordinating Board taken subsequent to the substantive session of the Council in 2003.

The report concludes with a series of recommendations. The Economic and Social Council is invited to review the report and its recommendations.

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I. Status of the epidemic

1. At the close of 2004, the total number of people living with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) rose to an estimated 39.4 million worldwide. That was its highest level ever and sharply up from an estimated 36.6 million two years earlier. The year also saw more new infections and more acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) deaths than ever before, with about 4.9 million people acquiring the virus and 3.1 million dying of AIDS. While sub-Saharan Africa had by far the greatest prevalence of HIV, the steepest increases in infections occurred in East Asia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

2. The epidemic (which is actually a multiplicity of epidemics) affects different regions and different population groups very differently. The proportion of females among HIV-positive people continues to grow, particularly in Eastern Europe, Asia and Latin America. Although they are less likely than men to engage in high-risk behaviour, women and girls now account for just under half of people living with HIV — the result of both their greater physiological vulnerability and of their lower social status in many countries.

3. AIDS now causes 3 per cent of deaths in children under 5 worldwide, but that figure may be as high as 50 per cent in the hardest-hit countries. About 2.3 million children under the age of 15 are currently living with HIV, the great majority being infants infected during gestation or delivery or through breastfeeding. Fifteen million children have been orphaned by AIDS and millions more are living in households where an adult is sick.

A. Regional variations

4. Sub-Saharan Africa continues to be the worst-hit region, with about two thirds (64 per cent) of all people living with HIV, and more than three quarters (76 per cent) of all HIV-positive women. Life expectancy has dropped below 40 years in nine countries in the region. Despite modest declines in HIV prevalence rates in Uganda and in parts of Ethiopia and Kenya, the highly varied epidemics in the region are far from being reversed. The apparent stabilization of HIV prevalence in some countries signifies that the number of AIDS deaths is now being matched by a comparable number of new infections.

5. The Caribbean remains the second worst-affected region, with prevalence above 2 per cent in the Bahamas, Belize, Guyana, Haiti and Trinidad and Tobago. AIDS is now the leading cause of death among adults aged 15-44 in the region. HIV transmission occurs largely through heterosexual sex, although sex between men is also a factor. In Latin America, more than 1.7 million people are currently living with HIV.

6. In all regions, the epidemic disproportionately targets the most marginalized populations, such as sex workers, men who have sex with men, mobile populations, injecting drug users, street youth and prisoners. Injecting drug use is one of the main drivers of the emerging epidemics in Eastern Europe and in Central, South, South-East and East Asia. In East Asia the number of people living with HIV rose by almost 50 per cent in the past two years, largely a reflection of the swiftly growing epidemic in China. In Eastern Europe and Central Asia, where the increase in

prevalence was about 40 per cent, the greatest numbers of HIV-positive people are living in Ukraine and the Russian Federation.

7. In 2004, in the Middle East and North Africa nearly 92,000 people became infected with HIV, compared to 73,000 in 2002. Conflict-stricken Sudan remains the region's worst-affected country, with its epidemic concentrated largely in the south.

8. In North America and in Western and Central Europe, in 2004 the number of people living with HIV rose by about 64,000 to between 1.1 million and 2.2 million, with rising numbers of people becoming infected through unprotected heterosexual sex. In the United States, where the majority of HIV-positive people are men who have sex with men, prevalence is disproportionately high among African Americans and is affecting increasing numbers of women. In Western Europe, a large share of new HIV infections is found among people originating from countries with serious epidemics, and there is evidence of a resurgence of HIV transmission among men who have sex with men.

B. Long-term impacts

9. Despite the growing provision of antiretroviral treatment in developing countries, it is possible that by 2006 11 countries in sub-Saharan Africa will have lost over one tenth of their labour force to AIDS. Foreshadowing the epidemic's long-term capacity for broad-based damage, the impact of AIDS on agriculture played a pivotal role in the recent food crisis in Southern Africa.

10. Epidemics in large countries — such as China, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria and Russia — threaten to form a wave of new infections that could erase gains against HIV/AIDS in other parts of the world. The United Nations has made progress in those countries, especially in terms of high-level advocacy, but more resources will need to be devoted to them to bring about real change.

II. Implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS

11. The 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS has been an important mechanism in accelerating the global fight against the epidemic. The Declaration established clear time-bound targets with measurable indicators of progress. The importance of the global HIV/AIDS effort to wider development objectives is underlined by the way the Declaration targets reinforce the Millennium Development Goals, especially Goal 6 (to have halted by 2015, and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS).

12. In 2006, the General Assembly will receive and review a comprehensive report on international progress in implementing the Declaration, with special reference to the targets due at the end of 2005. The present report provides an overview of current progress in implementing key aspects of the Declaration, with some indication of impacts to date.

Preventing new infections

13. At the present time, almost all of the most affected countries are at risk of falling short of the Declaration's target of reducing the level of infection in young

men and women (ages 15-24) by 2005. While some countries are having some success in reducing infection levels among certain populations, the pace of the epidemic's expansion worldwide is increasing. Prevention programmes currently reach only a fraction of those who need them. The scaling-up of prevention services is especially vital for women, for young people (who represent one half of all new infections) and for marginalized populations at the greatest risk of infection such as sex workers, prisoners, migrants, men who have sex with men and injecting drug users. Reluctance to address the needs and vulnerabilities of those populations has perverse effects, which was shown by a 2004 survey of national AIDS spending in 26 countries that highlighted how often limited prevention resources are invested in relatively ineffective programmes aimed at the general population and people at low risk. That means critical opportunities to prevent epidemics concentrated in the most vulnerable populations from spreading to the larger population are being missed.

Expanding access to treatment

14. The number of people on antiretroviral therapy rose by nearly two thirds during the last six months of 2004 as a result of a number of international efforts, including the "3 by 5" initiative. In particular, that period saw the doubling of the number of people on treatment in sub-Saharan Africa, from 150,000 to 310,000. Treatment coverage in Botswana, Namibia and Uganda presently exceeds one quarter of those in need, and is greater than 10 per cent in 13 countries in the region. In Latin America, 10 countries have reported treatment coverage of over 50 per cent. While heartening, those achievements still meant that only 12 per cent of those who need antiretroviral therapy in low- and middle-income countries were receiving it as 2005 began, so it is crucial that the momentum be sustained and stepped up. Increased access to antiretroviral treatment boosts the ability of national health-care systems to provide HIV/AIDS responses that deliver care, prevention and impact mitigation efforts in a comprehensive and mutually reinforcing manner.

Human rights and AIDS

15. While many surveys of national AIDS responses and policies indicate the existence of human rights safeguards, existing measures frequently lack the specificity and enforcement mechanisms necessary to combat gender- and stigma-based discrimination. Many countries have yet to adopt legislation to prevent discrimination against people living with HIV, and even fewer have enacted measures to promote and protect the human rights of vulnerable populations.

Orphans and children made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS

16. The impact of HIV on children is devastating and the situation will worsen. Between 2001 and 2003, the global number of children orphaned by AIDS increased from 11.5 million to 15 million. That represents just a fraction of the number of children whose lives will be radically altered by the impact of HIV/AIDS on their families, communities, schools, health care and welfare systems. With the exception of Eastern Europe, less than 3 per cent of orphans and vulnerable children are receiving public care and support services in developing countries. The number of orphans will continue to rise even after the number of adults infected with HIV peaks or declines. In 2004, rapid assessments and action plans for children affected by HIV/AIDS were completed in 16 sub-Saharan African countries under the leadership of the UNAIDS secretariat, two co-sponsors (World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and United States Agency for

International Development (USAID)). The OVC Programme Effort Index (UNAIDS secretariat and others) was implemented in 35 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The index identified specific strengths, weaknesses and gaps in policy and planning efforts, and helped to guide future action. However, despite those efforts, twenty years into the pandemic, children and adolescents are still too often disregarded when strategies on HIV/AIDS are drafted, policies made and budgets allocated.

Building sustainable capacity

17. A major barrier to the implementation and expansion of essential AIDS programmes is the acute shortage of trained personnel who possess requisite skills and expertise. Strategies to preserve and build national capacity — including maximizing use of community resources — have been identified and implemented in some places, but donors and recipient countries have often failed to integrate those approaches into programmatic efforts. The UNAIDS secretariat, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank/World Health Organization (WHO) High-Level Forum on Health Millennium Development Goals, as well as several donor agencies and affected countries have initiated both policy work and country analysis and planning to address that issue.

Financial resources

18. Financial resources available in 2005 for AIDS programmes in low- and middle-income countries are projected to be nearly six times greater than amounts spent worldwide in 2001. All major donors now recognize that AIDS programmes must comprehensively address prevention, treatment, care and support. The United States $15 billion "President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief" offers significant new resources to national AIDS programmes. As of January 2005, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria had approved funding for a comprehensive range of programmes that address prevention and care initiatives, including funding that will ultimately support the delivery of antiretroviral therapy to an estimated 1.6 million people in settings where resources are limited. The World Bank has also expanded its support for care and treatment. The mobilization of the business sector and public-private partnerships is helping to provide comprehensive prevention and care services to employees and local communities. Nonetheless, if spending trends continue at the present level, by 2007 there will still be a significant shortfall between the available funds and the resources needed for a response that is comprehensive in both scope and coverage.

19. Political commitment has markedly increased during the past two years at the national, regional and global level. Particular examples can be found in the two most populous countries in the world. In China, senior political leaders have begun to speak publicly about AIDS issues while in India, a national AIDS Council chaired by the Prime Minister has been established with the representation of different sectoral ministries. Groups of people living with HIV continue to lead efforts in many countries around the world to overcome the silence surrounding AIDS and to demand effective action to address the epidemic.

III. Progress in the UNAIDS partnership

20. Coordinated efforts across the spectrum of United Nations and non-United Nations actors remain crucial to the success of the global response to the AIDS epidemic. Building on that realization, the 15th meeting of the Programme Coordinating Board (June 2004) emphasized the importance of strengthening the UNAIDS partnership, especially at the country level, to contribute to a comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS. While much remains to be done and several challenges lie ahead, remarkable progress has taken place in several areas of the response, including capacity-building, training and education, the development of legal and regulatory frameworks, technical assistance, normative work, children and young people, injecting drug users, research and the issue of HIV/AIDS in the United Nations workplace.

21. The following sections review the progress made by UNAIDS co-sponsors and its secretariat in strengthening coordinated United Nations responses to support national AIDS strategies.

A. Advocacy and leadership for effective action

22. UNAIDS leadership activities include the reinforcement of national capacity, support for regional leadership and strengthening and accelerating global advocacy and leadership initiatives.

1. Strengthening national capacity and leadership

23. The 16th meeting of the Programme Coordinating Board (December 2004) endorsed the commitment of UNAIDS to scaling up technical support, building capacity and promoting coordinated and comprehensive responses at the country level. Concrete steps to fulfil that commitment can be seen in several high-level initiatives.

The "Three Ones"

24. Through a preparatory process in Africa, initiated by the UNAIDS secretariat in cooperation with the World Bank and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, three principles were identified as being crucial to promoting "harmonization within AIDS". Known as the "Three Ones", the principles were agreed by a meeting of leading international donors in April 2004, and include the following:

(a) One agreed HIV/AIDS action framework that provides the basis for coordinating the work of all partners;

(b) One National AIDS coordinating authority, with a broad-based multisectoral mandate;

(c) One agreed country-level monitoring and evaluation system.

25. At the meeting, UNAIDS was called upon to spearhead support to countries and donors in implementing the "Three Ones", and undertook to produce an annual report outlining progress.

26. A critical component in providing effective country-level United Nations support to national implementations of the "Three Ones" has been the United Nations Theme Group on HIV/AIDS. In individual countries the Group has been incorporating the "Three Ones" into its work plan. Particular areas of action include support for the functioning of national AIDS authorities, support for the establishment and functioning of national partnership forums, support for the establishment and functioning of joint review processes and support for the establishment and functioning of monitoring and evaluation systems. UNAIDS is engaging in intensive advocacy and monitoring in 12 countries which either require urgent acceleration of their national responses or are at critical stages in their development. Those countries are Ethiopia, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Ukraine, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam and Zambia.

Strengthened support for countries

27. The UNAIDS co-sponsors and the secretariat have made strengthening of country-level support to AIDS responses a key priority. In line with the recommendations of the Programme Coordinating Board following the five-year evaluation of UNAIDS and the June 2003 management plan, *Directions for the Future: Unifying and Intensifying Country Support*, UNAIDS has reoriented efforts and resources to the country level to better support national AIDS responses. To assist this reorientation, the secretariat is developing a new competence framework to ensure that all UNAIDS country coordinators have the right skills to manage this process by 2006. In addition, UNAIDS (the co-sponsors and the secretariat) has placed additional staff in countries with technical expertise in the three key programme areas of monitoring and evaluation, partnership building and policy advice and resource mobilization and tracking.

28. Those three areas were identified by the Programme Coordinating Board as necessary to ensure that UNAIDS can provide timely, effective assistance to countries as more resources become available and more actors become involved, and as activities are expanded. By the end of 2004, 57 additional posts had been created, including the placement of UNAIDS country coordinators in additional countries. That represented a 46 per cent increase in country-level professional staff. An additional 20 country-level posts are to be created in 2005. In addition to this increase by the secretariat, co-sponsors have significantly strengthened their country-level presence focused on HIV/AIDS.

29. Joint United Nations planning on HIV and AIDS at the country level has been steadily improved, pursuant to the guidance note by the United Nations Development Group on operationalizing a strengthened United Nations system response to HIV/AIDS at country level issued in late 2003. The note aims at improving the coherence, relevance and quality of United Nations system support to national HIV/AIDS efforts and underscores the collective accountability of the United Nations system through the Theme Group on HIV/AIDS. Specific guidelines are provided on key issues such as the roles and responsibilities of the Resident Coordinator and Theme Group chair, the positioning of the UNAIDS country coordinator within the United Nations country team, the core functions of UNAIDS, the mainstreaming of HIV and AIDS in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and major development instruments and the development and implementation of United Nations Implementation Support Plans. The Plans provide a framework for the coordination of United Nations support to national AIDS responses, based on national priorities and planning. By the end of 2004 the Plans

were being implemented in at least 23 countries, had been recently finalized in 3 more and were under development in 22 countries.

30. A rapid survey carried out in late 2004 found that the guidelines were largely being carried out one year after the issuance of the note. Theme Groups in almost all the countries surveyed are functioning strongly and hold regular meetings with a high level of participation of United Nations agency heads, and UNAIDS country coordinators are members of the full United Nations country team. The recommended rotation and the process for designating the Theme Group chairs are largely being applied, and there is increasing application of the United Nations Personnel Policy on HIV/AIDS and the International Labour Organization Code of Practice on HIV/AIDS and the World of Work. However, the survey notes some ongoing weaknesses, for example efforts to mainstream HIV/AIDS into key development instruments (through UNDAF and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers) are uneven, and more frequent consultations are needed among the United Nations Theme Groups and major donors at the country level to more accurately map how to support national response more effectively.

2. Support for regional leadership

31. The past two years have seen a marked intensification in joint regional United Nations action on AIDS. A regional directors' group on HIV/AIDS was formed in Eastern and Southern Africa in response to the "triple threat" of food insecurity, weakened capacities for governance and AIDS in the subregions. A rapid assessment in mid-2004 found that progress was being made to expand country-level responses to the triple threat, although there was considerable variability in United Nations country team follow-up in the different countries.

32. In Eastern Europe, Regional Directors of UNAIDS co-sponsors have selected three focus countries — the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Ukraine — for the development of joint advocacy plans, intensified promotion of the "Three Ones" principles and increased use of UNAIDS programme acceleration funds. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the Regional Directors of UNAIDS co-sponsors and the secretariat's regional teams have in the last year developed common priorities such as the coordination of financial support to the region, development of regional advocacy strategies, and implementation of the United Nations Learning Strategy on HIV/AIDS. In general, regional efforts by UNAIDS have been most effective when responding to a clear major regional issue such as the "triple threat" or in supporting a regional entity such as the peer review mechanism of the African Union, AIDS Watch Africa.

Progress on established regional initiatives

33. Progress has been seen in regional initiatives such as the Asia-Pacific Leadership Forum on HIV/AIDS and Development and the Pan Caribbean Partnership against HIV/AIDS (PANCAP). At the Second Asia-Pacific Ministerial meeting on HIV/AIDS held in Bangkok on 11 July 2004 the assembled Ministers agreed on "the importance of promoting high-level leadership and partnership among key stakeholders in combating HIV/AIDS in the region, through various channels, including the Asia-Pacific Leadership Forum on HIV/AIDS and Development (APLF)". Building on the recommendations of the APLF Steering Committee and stakeholders in May 2004, the APLF is moving into a second phase of leadership mobilization at the country and subregional levels. Efforts are focused

on the mobilization of five leadership "streams" of political, media, business, religious and women's leaders. Many activities have been initiated, conducted or supported at the country and subregional levels. Cooperation continues with the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) in preparation for the ASEAN summit in 2005.

34. The Pan Caribbean Partnership against HIV/AIDS has become a model for regional initiatives in recent years. In December 2004 a publication from the UNAIDS Best Practice Collection documented a number of indicators of success achieved by the Partnership in areas such as political leadership, resource mobilization, response acceleration, and global visibility. PANCAP has expanded to include 74 partner institutions from around the region, and has raised greatly the profile of the response to HIV/AIDS in all countries.

Regional support teams

35. The UNAIDS secretariat is currently reinforcing its regional presence through the establishment of regional support teams. The purpose of the teams is to mobilize and leverage technical, financial and political support to the joint country-level efforts by the United Nations to assist national AIDS responses, largely through the UNAIDS country offices in their respective regions. In countries where there are no UNAIDS country coordinators, the teams channel their support through United Nations Theme Groups and the United Nations resident coordinator system. In 2005, four UNAIDS inter-country teams were upgraded to regional support teams: Eastern and Southern Africa (based in Johannesburg, South Africa), West and Central Africa (Dakar), Asia-Pacific (Bangkok) and Middle East-North Africa (Cairo). A fifth regional support team for Eastern Europe and Central Asia has been established in Geneva, and two more are planned for Latin America and the Caribbean.

3. Global leadership initiatives

36. UNAIDS continues to emphasize the importance of leadership as a crucial component of the global response to HIV/AIDS.

High-level meeting on "Making the money work"

37. On 9 March 2005, UNAIDS and the Governments of France, the United Kingdom and the United States co-hosted a meeting in London focused on ensuring funds for HIV/AIDS activities are both available and actually reach those in the greatest need quickly and efficiently. Bilateral and multilateral donors, national leaders and civil society addressed ways to achieve comprehensive, effective and sustainable nationally led AIDS responses. It also created a Global Task Team to find ways in which the multilateral system can streamline, simplify and further harmonize HIV/AIDS-related procedures and practices in order to make country-led responses more effective and reduce the burden placed on the managerial and technical capacity of countries.

"3 by 5" initiative

38. WHO, as the lead co-sponsor on treatment and as the agency providing technical guidance to the broader health sector, is closely collaborating with other UNAIDS co-sponsors and the secretariat on scaling up national AIDS treatment programmes in order to reach the goal of 3 million people living with HIV on

antiretroviral treatment by the end of 2005. Co-sponsors and the secretariat have undertaken to improve coordination, engage in joint advocacy, pool technical resources and document experiences in countries with the aim of accelerating "3 by 5" and rapidly documenting best practices for application in other low- and middle-income countries.

Global Coalition on Women and AIDS

39. Launched in 2004, the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS is a network of civil society groups, Governments, and United Nations agencies that work together to highlight the effects of AIDS on women and girls and to stimulate concrete actions — particularly the empowerment of women — that make the AIDS response work for women and girls. The Coalition has identified seven action areas on which it is focusing. Leadership in each area is provided by a convening partner that builds broad partnerships for advocacy and action. Notable efforts have been made in specific fields by UNICEF and the Global Campaign for Education (promoting universal education for girls), the International Center for Research on Women and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (protecting women's property and inheritance rights), WHO and the Center for Women's Global Leadership (reducing violence against women), the International Planned Parenthood Federation, Young Positives, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) (improving access to sexual and reproductive health care for adolescent girls) and WHO and the International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS (advocating equal access for women to HIV care, treatment and support). The Coalition also supports leadership by and for women in the response to AIDS, working closely with partners such as the Worldwide Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts and HelpAge International.

4. Engagement of United Nations system organizations

40. In the past two years, UNAIDS has been joined by two new co-sponsors. The World Food Programme (WFP) became a co-sponsor in 2003 and was joined by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in 2004.

41. UNAIDS continues to work with a wide spectrum of United Nations and non-United Nations organizations. For example, in October 2003 UN-Habitat and UNAIDS signed a cooperation framework on strengthening joint action against the epidemic in urban areas, the eleventh collaboration agreement signed by UNAIDS with the United Nations organization. In November 2003, the Chief Executives Board of the United Nations, chaired by the Secretary-General, endorsed a comprehensive paper on "triple threat" of food insecurity, weakened capacity for governance and AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa. The UNAIDS secretariat has actively participated in other United Nations system coordination mechanisms, including the United Nations Development Group and the United Nations Inter-Agency Standing Committee on Humanitarian Affairs.

42. In order to improve coordination by all relevant organizations in the United Nations system in the response to AIDS, UNAIDS has elaborated the United Nations System Strategic Framework for 2006-2010 as a successor document to the United Nations System Strategic Plan. The Framework was prepared in consultation with the members of the Inter-Agency Advisory Group on AIDS and adds additional value to the planning process owing to such features as the following:

(a) A simpler and more understandable structure;

(b) Greater effectiveness as an advocacy tool as it specifies goals, objectives and outcomes derived from the Millennium Development Goals and the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS;

(c) Clear links among strategy, coordination and outcomes in a unified framework within which each United Nations body develops its strategic plan;

(d) A focus on results.

43. The February 2005 meeting of the Inter-Agency Advisory Group on AIDS expressed its support for the UNSSF and agreed that each participating agency will develop its individual plan on HIV and AIDS under the Framework.

B. Strategic information

44. UNAIDS disseminates strategic information to assist national, regional and international actors in the essential tasks of policy formulation, prioritization of investments and programme implementation, as well as in setting the international policy agenda on the need for greater coherence and accountability in AIDS funding. UNAIDS has regularly developed and disseminated policy on a broad range of key HIV issues, including refugees, agriculture, youth and education, and legislative and policy reform designed to deliver better on HIV-related human rights.

45. The following are examples of important strategic information initiatives undertaken by UNAIDS during the present reporting period.

1. Process for producing estimates

46. Guided by the UNAIDS Reference Group on Estimates, Modelling and Projections, the past few years have seen continued capacity-building at the country level and a refinement of the methods used to produce country-specific estimates of the burden of HIV infection. A number of software products have been developed, including the Estimation and Projection Package which is used to estimate and project adult HIV prevalence in countries with generalized epidemics, and Spectrum software, which generates estimates of prevalence, incidence, AIDS-related mortality and orphans. In 2003, a total of 196 selected national epidemiologists and analysts from 126 countries received initial training in the use of those tools at 12 regional training workshops. Since then, both software packages have been updated incorporating new evidence from research and adding new features. A second round of training workshops is being conducted during March-June 2005 to train new users and update existing users on new developments in estimation and projection. Those training workshops are expected to build capacity in countries, produce draft 2005 estimates, and initiate discussions about using countries' 2005 estimates in the end-2005 Epidemic Update and 2006 Global Report by UNAIDS.

2. Monitoring and evaluation

47. UNAIDS has undertaken a number of major activities to strengthen monitoring and evaluation (M&E) efforts at the global and country levels. The UNAIDS secretariat and co-sponsors, especially the World Bank, UNICEF and WHO, are working with key partners such as the Global Fund and the United States Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention to improve national monitoring and evaluation systems. In 2004, UNAIDS provided significant M&E technical support in at least 51 countries; was participating in the national M&E working groups of at least 45 countries; supported the development of national M&E plans in at least 46 countries; and supported the monitoring and evaluation of Global Fund grants in at least 29 countries. As regional training and short-term assistance have had insufficient impact, monitoring and evaluation experts (both national and international placements) have been hired to work in priority countries for periods of from two to four years. In line with the "Three Ones" principles, their main role is to assist national governments in the development and implementation of unified monitoring and evaluation systems. Twenty-three of the 29 positions approved for 2004 have already been taken up in their duty stations, and 11 additional monitoring and evaluation advisers will be recruited in 2005.

48. In 2002, the UNAIDS co-sponsors and secretariat established the Global HIV/AIDS Monitoring and Evaluation Support Team (GAMET), located at the World Bank. GAMET now has a country support team with 10 monitoring and evaluation specialists. By the end of 2004, the Team had made 139 field support visits to 42 countries and provided intensive field support for monitoring and evaluation.

49. At the global level, the UNAIDS Monitoring and Evaluation Reference Group continues to harmonize M&E tools, but has also increased efforts to address gaps in country M&E activities. UNAIDS is also in the final stages of developing a computer based "clearing house", the Monitoring and Evaluation Technical Assistance and Training Facility, that will link country requests for M&E assistance with technical expertise and resources. In the area of AIDS-related resource tracking, UNAIDS is emphasizing that aspect of monitoring as an activity for the newly established Regional Support Teams.

50. Among the co-sponsors, UNICEF has developed a guide to monitoring and evaluating the situation of children orphaned and made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS, and is working with 16 of the hardest-hit countries on the rapid assessment and appraisal of the situation of children. WHO has taken the lead in producing M&E guidelines for programmes that focus on the prevention of mother-to-child transmission, young people, antiretroviral therapy and patient monitoring.

3. Prevention and care

Prevention

51. One of the important functions of UNAIDS in the area of strategic information is to provide high-level policy advice to guide the global response to the epidemic, and ensure that it is both balanced and comprehensive. To ensure that prevention retains its status as a key priority in the global response, the 16th meeting of the Programme Coordinating Board confirmed the importance of developing a revitalized global prevention strategy, and directed that such a strategy be presented at the 17th Board meeting in June 2005. In particular, the Board directed UNAIDS to ensure that the prevention strategy is clearly based on evidence; integrated with global and national prevention, care and treatment initiatives; and grounded in a human-rights approach that specifically addresses the needs of those especially at risk of HIV exposure, including women and girls, youth, men who have sex with men, injecting and other drug users, sex workers, people living in poverty, prisoners,

migrant labourers, people in conflict- and post-conflict situations, refugees and internally displaced persons. The strategy is to have clear links to sexual and reproductive health programmes, owing to their importance as entry points for HIV prevention. That will require increased efforts by UNAIDS in the production and dissemination of information, including advocacy and policy materials, for example through the Global Initiative on HIV/AIDS and Education, led by UNESCO, or such global youth initiatives as Global Youth Partners, supported by UNFPA.

Care and treatment

52. Various initiatives have been undertaken, in addition to the above-mentioned "3 by 5", towards the goal of granting universal access to care and treatment, a basic element of the human right to health.

53. UNAIDS, especially UNICEF and WHO, continue to work with Médecins Sans Frontières on providing strategic information on the sources and prices of HIV medicines through the joint publication *Sources and Prices of Selected Medicines and Diagnostics for People Living with HIV/AIDS*, based on global pricing reported by the pharmaceutical companies. In 2004 the Global Fund published the *Purchase Price Report*, the first such publication using real transaction pricing information in the public domain. UNICEF procures antiretroviral drugs, and test kits for prevention of mother-to-child transmission and antiretroviral treatment for Governments, Columbia University, the Glaser Progress Foundation, UNDP and NGOs in 39 countries, with national expansion in eight countries. UNICEF has also established a $1.6 million stockpile, part in Copenhagen and part as standby arrangements at manufacturers to cater for emergency orders.

54. WHO continues to provide normative guidance on HIV treatment and is updating its Model List of Essential Medicines, with the possibility of adding other antiretrovirals and HIV-related medicines. The Procurement, Quality and Sourcing Project (the "prequalification project") managed by WHO with support from UNAIDS, UNICEF and the World Bank, has now approved some 80 HIV-related products, most of which are antiretrovirals, from both originator and generic companies. The project provides crucial information that is used by the United Nations in its procurement work and can be useful also to national drug regulatory authorities in the registration of pharmaceuticals in countries. WHO and the UNAIDS secretariat co-sponsored, with the Governments of the United States and South Africa, meetings in 2004 that resulted in the publication of principles for national drug regulatory agencies to apply to procurement of fixed-dose combination antiretrovirals.

55. UNAIDS co-sponsors and the secretariat continued their joint effort in developing policy guidance on expanding treatment, particularly on introducing HIV treatment in resource-limited settings where universal access is not immediately possible. The guidance includes specific measures that can be taken in countries and communities to promote fairness in scaling up HIV care. Notably, in March 2005, WHO, the World Bank and the secretariat sponsored a consultation on ensuring universal access: user fees and free care policies in the context of HIV treatment, which will lead to the development of policy guidance in that area. Co-sponsors and the secretariat also provide strategic information on intellectual property for policymakers and programme managers, with a view to encouraging the production and use of generic drugs where that is in the interest of health systems and people living with HIV/AIDS.

C. Civil society engagement and partnership development

56. Forging greater action on AIDS by the wide range of civil society, faith-based organizations and business sector actors is a central priority for UNAIDS. The Programme continues to strengthen its work with civil society organizations, including faith-based organizations. For example, a mapping of the AIDS-related activities of Christian evangelical organizations — the fastest-growing churches in many parts of the world — was carried out. It identified 60 "hubs" (large churches with strong connections to many smaller or more isolated ones) with which UNAIDS now regularly exchanges strategic information on prevention, care and treatment issues. Many of those churches have their own radio and television stations, and are proving willing to address AIDS in programmes. Working with the International Olympic Committee, UNAIDS is providing regional training to help national Olympic Committees reach their mass memberships and young people with HIV prevention and anti-stigma-related activities. In collaboration with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, UNAIDS is helping Swedish NGOs to raise AIDS on their country's agenda and to collaborate with NGOs in recipient countries.

57. A new phase of seriousness and commitment to AIDS on the part of business has emerged over recent years. It is increasingly standard operating practice for companies in badly affected regions to seek to mitigate the impact of HIV on their bottom lines. In addition to the work of the ILO, we have focused on strengthening the private-sector response by working through large, influential business membership associations. Key players such as the Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS and the World Economic Forum, as well as regional and national business associations, trade unions and employers' organizations, have used their influence to increase action on AIDS, especially in the workplace.

58. The commitment of UNAIDS to collaboration with networks of HIV-positive people was demonstrated at the 2004 UNAIDS global staff meeting in which facilitators from several networks conducted sessions attended by UNAIDS field-level staff.

59. In line with the recommendations on the role of civil society agreed at the 15th meeting of the Programme Coordinating Board, the UNAIDS secretariat has established a steering committee composed of civil society representatives to increase that sector's input into the monitoring and evaluation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS adopted by the twenty-sixth special session of the General Assembly.

D. Mobilizing financial and technical resources

60. Although funding on AIDS has increased in recent years, it still falls short of what is needed. Promoting, tracking and coordinating resource mobilization therefore remained a cornerstone of the activities of UNAIDS. Special emphasis has been given by the UNAIDS co-sponsors and secretariat to assisting countries mobilize and effectively utilize resources from a number of sources, including increasing domestic budgets and multilateral and bilateral foundations and the private sector. Some key examples are highlighted below.

World Bank

61. The World Bank is one of the three largest contributors to the funding of HIV/AIDS programmes. By the end of 2004 it had committed more than US$ 2 billion in grants, credits and loans to more than 80 HIV/AIDS prevention and control programmes globally. Most of that funding has come through the Multi-Country HIV/AIDS Programme (MAP) for Africa, which has committed more than US$ 1.1 billion to 29 country and 4 subregional projects. In 2004, the World Bank and other development partners (UNAIDS, the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom, and MAP International) conducted an interim review of the Programme for Africa. The review found the general approach of the Programme to be sound, and commended its role in stimulating HIV/AIDS programmes across Africa, including support for initiatives by civil society and communities. The review also identified areas in which the Programme needs modification to respond effectively to the major changes that have arisen in the global HIV/AIDS environment since 2000. Many of those findings are relevant not only to the Multi-Country HIV/AIDS Programme for Africa, but also to national HIV/AIDS programmes in general and to other external partners.

Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

62. The first three years of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria has seen a substantial increase in the financial resources made available to low- and middle-income countries. As of January 2005, 129 HIV/AIDS-related grant proposals totalling about $1.6 billion in two-year funding (a total five-year grant amount of $5 billion) were approved in the first four rounds of calls for proposals. UNAIDS support for HIV/AIDS proposal development, grant negotiations, implementation and monitoring and evaluation is handled globally, regionally and at the country level by individual co-sponsors and the secretariat through both core staff and consultants. At the country level, United Nations country teams (often through the United Nations Theme Group on HIV/AIDS) have jointly spent a significant amount of human and financial resources advocating national investment in the Global Fund process, contributing to the establishment and functioning of country coordinating mechanisms and their technical sub-groupings, supporting the Global Fund-related efforts of civil society and assisting in grant proposal and implementation.

63. UNAIDS co-sponsors provide significant technical assistance to HIV/AIDS grants. Co-sponsor support for proposal development and implementation generally focuses on grants for HIV/AIDS programmes that fall within their mandates. Additionally, UNDP is contributing substantially to the successful implementation of approved proposals through capacity-building support for principal recipients and other local implementing partners. UNDP is also acting as principal recipient for grants in 25 countries facing donor constraints or exceptional development challenges. In the latter category, UNDP is providing the necessary capacity-building support to one or more local principal recipient candidates with the view that they will be phased in to that role. In 2005, UNAIDS assistance to Global Fund processes will be augmented by the newly established technical support facilities (explained above).

Unified budget and work

64. The unified budget and work plan provides a platform for joint planning on HIV and AIDS at the global and regional level. At the request of the 16th meeting of the Programme Coordinating Board, and to provide more stringent performance monitoring and accountability, UNAIDS is simplifying the 2006-2007 unified budget and work structure. For example it has reduced the number of results and indicators to a more reasonable and measurable number, including aggregate results and key results for each agency, as well as specific deliverables for each result. In addition, UNAIDS had sought to streamline the planning process and to reduce transaction costs in spite of the increase in the number of co-sponsors. Finally, the unified budget and work plan will provide an inter-agency component with, for the first time, measurable results and deliverables.

Programme Acceleration Funds

65. The UNAIDS Programme Acceleration Funds (PAF) are administered by the United Nations Theme Groups on AIDS and enable the United Nations system to make strategic contributions to the enhancement of each country's response to AIDS. PAF grants are meant to be used as seed money for new initiatives that might serve as catalysts for action beyond those initiatives. In practice, they are often used to address important gaps in a country's response, especially gaps related to gender or to sensitive issues such as sex work, injecting drug use and men who have sex with men. The budget for the 2004-2005 biennium provides for a total of US$ 16 million in small grants, of which 50 per cent is designated for use in 55 "priority countries" in greatest need of intensified support for their AIDS response. Another 30 per cent is set aside for all other countries with the United Nations Theme Groups on HIV/AIDS. The remaining 20 per cent is kept in reserve to rapidly respond to unforeseen events. The 2004 annual reports for 76 countries show that Theme Groups in those countries approved almost 190 new PAF grants, while continuing to administer grants given in previous years.

Technical support facilities

66. Regional United Nations structures are being challenged by the need to rapidly increase technical assistance and capacity development to assist countries in implementing Global Fund grants and other externally-supported efforts to scale up national AIDS responses. Accordingly, and in line with the recommendations of the 15th meeting of the Programme Coordinating Board, UNAIDS technical support facilities are being established in four regions, Eastern and Southern Africa, West and Central Africa, South-East Asia and Latin America by the end of 2005. Technical support facilities are envisioned as service-providing entities, based on existing regional institutions, that will facilitate country partners' access to technical and capacity-building assistance from the United Nations and other development partners and institutions. UNAIDS co-sponsors, national Governments, civil society and other key stakeholders will be members of Regional Inter-agency Reference Groups which provide oversight, assessment and advice to the UNAIDS secretariat regarding the activities of the technical support facilities. To ensure the sustainability and high quality of the technical support facilities, clients will be asked to pay for the services out of their own budgets. However, UNAIDS will establish a technical assistance fund of around $500,000 per year in each region to assist clients who cannot afford to pay for the services they need.

IV. Recommendations and proposed action for the Economic and Social Council

67. The Economic and Social Council may wish to consider the following actions:

1. **Endorsing the support given by the 15th and 16th meetings of the Programme Coordinating Board to UNAIDS commitment to expanding technical support, building capacity, and promoting coordinated and comprehensive responses at the country level, in particular through the implementation of the "Three Ones" principles for country-level coordination.**

2. **Endorsing the intensification of joint regional United Nations action on AIDS, both through improved communications between agencies at the regional level and through initiatives such as regional support teams to mobilize and leverage technical, financial and political support for the joint country-level efforts by the United Nations.**

3. **Taking note of the progress that has been made on scaling up antiretroviral treatment and accelerating HIV/AIDS prevention, and encouraging UNAIDS and its partners to intensify their efforts to reach the "3 by 5" target.**

4. **Endorsing the decision of the 16th meeting of the Programme Coordinating Board to call for a revitalized global approach to prevention that is based on evidence, integrated with global and national prevention, care and treatment initiatives, grounded in a human-rights approach, and linked where appropriate to sexual and reproductive health programmes.**

5. **Encouraging UNAIDS activities to strengthen monitoring and evaluation efforts at the global and country levels, particularly its efforts to rapidly improve monitoring and evaluation systems in priority countries through the provision of technical advice and the posting of specialist staff in those and other countries.**

6. **Commending UNAIDS and its partners in launching the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS, and endorsing the Programme Coordinating Board recommendation for intensified efforts by civil society groups, Governments, and United Nations agencies to make the AIDS response work for women and girls.**

7. **Encouraging United Nations system organizations to participate in the United Nations System Strategic Framework for 2006-2010, and acknowledging the progress and linkages with the work of the Joint Programme.**

8. **Endorsing the request of the 16th meeting of the Programme Coordinating Board for UNAIDS to simplify and improve the 2006-2007 unified budget work plan structure, streamline the planning process, reduce transaction costs, and provide an inter-agency component with measurable results and deliverables.**

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Coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda

Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

The overall purpose of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) is to improve the living and working environment for all through more effective, participatory and transparent management and the development of human settlements. UN-Habitat is deeply committed to supporting countries in the implementation of Habitat Agenda, the Declaration of the Cities and Other Human Settlements and Millennium Development Goal 7, to ensure environmental sustainability, and its targets 10 and 11, which call for the reduction by half of the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and the achievement of significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, by 2020. While the Programme beneficiaries are the urban poor, its main audience remains the policymaker who carries the power and authority to improve the lives of the poor by providing the resources and removing the obstacles to their well-being.

The work of UN-Habitat is organized around the following four subprogrammes: subprogramme 1, "Shelter and sustainable human settlements development"; subprogramme 2, "Monitoring the Habitat Agenda"; subprogramme 3, "Regional and technical cooperation"; subprogramme 4, "Human settlements financing". The four subprogrammes have been interconnected through the

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UN-Habitat strategic vision document, approved by its Governing Council in 2003. Addressing the explosive formation of slums and the widespread lack of water and sanitation in slums, which are home to one sixth of the Earth's people, is now very close to the top of the world's list of development priorities. UN-Habitat is emerging as a leading player in both areas, aiming at on-the-ground improvements that can be translated into policies or, conversely, developing policy concepts that can be tested in the field.

In this regard, the four subprogrammes have become a four-pillar strategy in attaining the goal of cities without slums. This strategy consists of advocacy of global norms, analysis of information, field-testing solutions and financing. All UN-Habitat shelter, urban development, research and finance programmes, as well as its two global campaigns on secure tenure and urban governance, have been re-tooled, in order to contribute to the UN-Habitat strategic vision.

The present report is organized, in the first instance, according to the four subprogrammes of the Human Settlements Programme. The report then touches upon work with partners, flagship reports, innovations and management issues, and ends with several recommendations.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to paragraph 3 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2004/300.

II. Progress in programme implementation

A. Shelter and sustainable human settlements development

2. The overall objective of subprogramme 1 is to improve the shelter conditions of the world's poor and to ensure sustainable human settlements development, the two Habitat Agenda goals.

3. During the period under review, a global campaign for secure tenure was successfully launched in three countries in West Africa; memoranda of understanding were signed with three countries in East Africa, while cooperation agreements were concluded with five other countries to promote slum-upgrading; work was carried out on law and land review in three regions and the best practices noted are being integrated into the campaign on secure tenure; an international task force to facilitate negotiated policy alternatives to unlawful eviction was established and, as a result, some Governments have established a housing rights officer post in the relevant ministries; progress was made in implementing the water for African cities and water for Asian cities programmes; regional and country consultations were carried out, while strategic support was provided to community-led initiatives for improving water and sanitation for the urban poor; consultations on water for Eastern European cities were also initiated. Training and capacity-building were carried out in various groups, including water utility managers, in eight countries.

4. A United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) unification congress was successfully launched in 2004, and guidelines on decentralization and strengthening of local authorities were prepared and are now available for use. Due to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) promotion of tools to improve urban governance, there is a high demand by local authorities for training tools, including those regarding participatory budgeting. In 2004, a global campaign on urban governance was launched in Burkina Faso, Morocco and Senegal. Support was also provided to local governments in the application of urban governance tools in Africa and South Asia. In 2004, considerable progress was made in environmental planning and management in Africa and South Asia. New field operations in disaster management and response were identified in 15 countries and several islands. Work on the strategy for addressing shelter problems regarding HIV/AIDS-infected women and orphans in informal settlements is ongoing in East Africa.

B. Monitoring the Habitat Agenda

5. The aim of subprogramme 2 is to monitor and assess progress towards the attainment of the Habitat Agenda goals and the Millennium Declaration targets on slums and water and sanitation. The monitoring systems of UN-Habitat were strengthened to enable effective tracking of the Millennium Development Goal on improving the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers. Urban Inequities Surveys

were implemented in selected cities, and modules were added on to the Demographic and Health Surveys, as well as multiple indicator cluster surveys of UNICEF. The proportion of slum dwellers in cities was estimated from existing surveys and censuses and published in the Secretary-General's report on the Millennium Development Goals, starting with 2002, and in *Human Development Reports*. The Millennium Project Task Force 8 benefited from the global and regional estimations, in order to formulate policy suggestions.

6. The slum estimations forecast that there will be 1.4 billion slum dwellers by 2020, if it is assumed that current proportions of slums to urban populations remain valid during the forthcoming five-year periods, until 2020. In response to this daunting figure, the international development community, including the Millennium Project, the Governing Council of UN-Habitat and the Commission on Sustainable Development at its thirteenth session, debated the relevance of the targeted level of 100 million slum dwellers. The Millennium Project drew attention to the new slum formation and the need to provide positive alternatives to new slum formation. In its decision, the Commission on Sustainable Development, at its thirteenth session, called for support to countries, including through UN-Habitat, in their ability to provide data and information on existing slums with a projection on new slum formation by 2020, and thereafter for them to adopt and implement plans to achieve these targets linked to poverty reduction strategies, national sustainable development strategies or other relevant policy plans.

7. The Commission's call on Governments and the United Nations system will encourage further monitoring activities by UN-Habitat, to facilitate and provide methodological support to countries for estimating country-level slums, as well as for projecting levels until 2020. This facilitation and coordination role on the technical front should empower Governments to set up their own targets. The approach will be a major starting point in localizing the Millennium Development Goals, at the country and city levels.

8. UN-Habitat research priorities address the following issues: slums and urban poverty, secure tenure, market eviction and gentrification, rental housing within slums and the implications for slum upgrading, housing rights, and natural disasters or conflict, as well as gender equality in housing access.

9. In 2004, UN-Habitat made considerable progress in preparing the global urban indicators database version 3. The following specific activities were carried out. Urban indicators were revised in line with the Millennium Development Goals; strategic partnerships were developed for data collection and fund-raising; capacity-building of national statistical officers was undertaken for Africa and Asia; all data now collected is disaggregated by gender; and knowledge management to support policy formulation and urban management programmes were undertaken.

10. To bring experience and lessons from the field full circle to contribute to the global base of knowledge, UN-Habitat continues to produce two series of flagship reports in alternating years. In 2004, *The State of the World's Cities Report 2004/2005: Globalization and Urban Culture* was launched at the second session of the World Urban Forum and was very well received. This year will see the next edition of the *Global Report on Human Settlements*, which has as its theme city and shelter finance. The thematic agendas of the two report series have now been restructured to focus directly on some aspect of the Millennium Development Goals each year. *The State of the World's Cities* series is produced using in-house expertise

and data generated through the Urban Observatory Network. The *Global Report on Human Settlements* series takes advantage of multiple networks of researchers in bringing nuanced and fine-grained details from around the world to bear on priority themes.

11. Other activities included: a successful international conference on exchanging lessons learned from best practices in good urban governance policies and enabling legislation; strategy formulation for working with civil society organizations and youth; preparation of materials on advocacy for women's rights to land and a handbook on gender mainstreaming in human settlements; work towards a community-based housing finance credit scheme, which is almost complete, and the completion of case studies on financing low-income housing. Progress was made towards monitoring and promoting understanding of urban economic conditions and rural-urban linkages, as well as monitoring and developing strategies and frameworks for improving urban self-employment and livelihood for the urban poor.

C. Regional and technical cooperation

12. The objective of subprogramme 3 is to strengthen organizational and technical capacity primarily at the national and local levels for the formulation and implementation of policies, strategies and programmes, in accordance with the principles and commitments of the Habitat Agenda and the Millennium Declaration targets.

13. In 2004, the Regional and Technical Cooperation Division of UN-Habitat assisted Governments with the design and implementation of capacity-building projects, in collaboration with funding partners; provided advisory services and implemented technical programmes and projects within the context of the global campaigns; assisted a number of countries with post-war reconstruction and recovery; worked on training programmes and capacity-building of ministries and agencies in charge of disaster prevention and management; assisted countries in identifying disaster prone areas and formulating mitigation strategies; worked as part of the United Nations strategy programme for Iraq reconstruction and fund-raising; strengthened collaboration with regional economic commissions; coordinated Cities Alliance projects; carried out country assessments in 10 countries and fund-raising for regional and national projects; through its regional offices, established and maintained effective relationships with Governments and other Habitat Agenda partners. Besides working diligently to ensure that human settlements issues found their way into national agendas, especially poverty reduction strategy papers and the United Nations development assessment framework, Habitat programme managers worked closely with Governments and other partners in their respective countries on monitoring and promoting implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and the Habitat Agenda.

D. Human settlements financing

14. The main objective of subprogramme 4 in 2004 is to increase funds from international and domestic sources in support of shelter, related infrastructure development programmes and housing finance institutions and mechanisms, particularly in developing countries.

15. During the period under review, significant progress was made in establishing a slum upgrading facility. Subprogramme 4 will follow a two-track strategy. Nearly all the staff required for the division was recruited in 2004. In terms of mobilization of resources, US$ 1.8 million for the design phase and US$ 10 million for the slum upgrading facility three-year pilot phase was raised. Donors approached expressed interest in providing funds through their country programmes. Considerable progress was made in preparing a pipeline of programmes in three East African countries. Consultations on establishing the cooperation framework for country collaboration are at an advanced stage with the World Bank, the African Development Bank and the Asian Development Bank. There was some delay in starting the project pipeline and the pilot projects due to delays in securing donor funding. A number of countries in sub-Saharan Africa received advisory services related to strengthening capacity of domestic resources.

E. Working with partners

16. The second session of the World Urban Forum was held in Barcelona, Spain, in September 2004. Although the biennial World Urban Forum is not an official United Nations conference, it was mandated by the UN-Habitat Governing Council through its resolution 18/5, and is fundamental to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda at the international level. The theme of this global event was "Cities: crossroads of culture, inclusiveness and integration?". Through a set of structured dialogues among various Habitat Agenda partners, priority Habitat Agenda issues were discussed. Significant attention was paid to the Millennium Development Goals, with special emphasis on progress made in achieving Goal 7, particularly target 10, on water and sanitation, and target 11, on improving the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020. The biennial global event was very well attended, attracting a total of 4,389 participants, among them, Government officials (17.7 per cent); local authorities (16.4 per cent); non-governmental organizations (21.2 per cent); other United Nations agencies (4.1 per cent); professional and research institutions (8 per cent); and the private sector (8 per cent). There were 60 exhibitors from all over the world, showcasing a range of initiatives and best practices. There were three plenary meetings, partners' dialogues on urban culture, urban realities, urban governance and urban renaissance, as well as thematic dialogues on urban poor, urban resources, urban sustainability, urban services and urban disasters and reconstruction. The whole event was characterized by vibrant discussions. Among the distinguished participants were the former President of the former Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev, Martti Ahtisaari of Finland and Jeffrey Sachs, the Special Adviser of the United Nations Secretary-General on the Millennium Development Goals. The late Prime Minister of Lebanon, Rafik Hariri, was presented with a scroll of honour for his outstanding and visionary role in the reconstruction of post-conflict Beirut. Evaluation of the World Urban Forum by participants was very positive.

17. The Urban Millennium Partnership on localizing the Millennium Development Goals, promoted by UN-Habitat, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UCLG was launched at the World Urban Forum and received support from many partners. Preparatory activities under this new initiative have already begun.

18. The third session of the World Urban Forum will be held in Vancouver from 19 to 23 June 2006. It will be organized by UN-Habitat, in cooperation with the Government of Canada and the City of Vancouver. Governments and all Habitat Agenda partners are encouraged to participate in the third session of the World Urban Forum for a vibrant exchange of information and best practices on urban sustainablilty. It is hoped that the Forum will assert that thoughtful, evidence-based and rigorously evaluated programmes and policies are the measures of success and that key to these discussions should be an effort to turn ideas into action.

19. Through Cities Alliance, one of UN-Habitat's main partners in slum upgrading work is the World Bank. Cities Alliance is a global partnership created to test new tools and practical approaches to promote local economic development in a direct attack on urban poverty. Working within Cities Alliance in East Asia and in Afghanistan, Egypt, Latvia, the United Republic of Tanzania and Yemen, both the World Bank and UN-Habitat are collaborating to strengthen local government authorities, help in the emergency reconstruction of urban infrastructure, initiate and sustain labour-intensive municipal public works, formulate city development strategies and set up urban indicators databases, among other objectives.

20. UN-Habitat has a good working relationship with the Bank, but that relationship should be broader, extending beyond Cities Alliance. Despite progress made in promoting the urban agenda, a lot still remained to be done to "lift the game" and ensure that decision makers give adequate attention to urban management and development issues.

21. UN-Habitat has also signed memorandums of understanding with the Asian Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, and is working towards a memorandum of understanding with the African Development Bank on joint projects and programmes for water, sanitation, housing and urban development issues, with emphasis on improving the living conditions of the poor. These memorandums of understanding have led to substantial programme collaboration, for example, on the water for Asian cities programme, which provides a pipeline of US $10 million in grants from the Asian Development Bank and UN-Habitat for the first two phases and US $500 million in loans from the Asian Development Bank for water and sanitation projects in cities across Asia. This memorandum of understanding has leveraged additional funding for water for Asian cities from the Government of the Netherlands.

22. A key tool in attaining the Millennium Development Goals, particularly the slum, water and sanitation targets, is south-south cooperation or, as it used to be called, technical cooperation among developing countries. Just 20 years ago, the effectiveness of south-south cooperation may have been limited. Today, however, many countries grow their own technical and policy expertise and are ready to share that expertise with others in their regions.

23. UN-Habitat is a strong and committed advocate for peer learning and problem solving. We are sponsoring a continuing series of regional ministerial meetings on housing, land and urban development in Latin America, Africa and Asia. The African Ministers Conference on Housing and Urban Development took place early this year in Durban, South Africa, and was a joint undertaking by UN-Habitat, the African Union and the Government of South Africa. There is a commitment to carry the Conference forward in a biennial series of ministerial meetings. A similar high-

level meeting has been held in Latin America and an Asian counterpart has been called for 2006.

24. UN-Habitat has also supported recent peer learning at the city level, sponsoring exchanges, workshops, training and field trips among cities (e.g., Mumbai, Manila, Addis Ababa, Arusha, Durban, Havana, Medellin, Dar es Salaam, Nairobi and Johannesburg). These activities involve city authorities and community leaders, including from slums, to ensure cross-fertilization between urban poor communities regarding community mobilization strategies, negotiation practices for access to land, community-based savings and frameworks and tools for city-wide slum upgrading. Topics for recent exploration have included land law, land tenure, women's security of tenure, local government training needs, city environmental profiles, best practices and safer cities, as well as information management.

F. Innovations

25. In the 2004 programme plan and management review, UN-Habitat reported on an innovative initiative aimed at promoting the Millennium Development Goal on slums. In this initiative, UN-Habitat was an intermediary in a debt-for-land swap scheme between the Government of Finland and the Government of Kenya, the first of its kind. The UN-Habitat/Government of Kenya slum upgrading programme is located at the Athi River and at Kibera, the largest urban slum in Africa. The slum upgrading programme continues to constitute a path-breaking process, in which each stage contributes significantly towards achieving the Millennium Declaration target on slums. During the period under review, UN-Habitat has undertaken the physical and social planning of the two sites, while site preparation is in progress. House designs are ready and the Settlement Executive Committee, which will coordinate community participation in the project, is in place and operational. The Government partnerships, the slum dweller organizations and UN-Habitat in Nairobi are becoming stronger, but more work needs to be done in this respect.

26. In 2005, work will be undertaken to train slum dwellers in the areas of innovative building skills and materials development, cooperative formation and management, and in the capacity-building of local authorities.

27. The slum upgrading facility, conceived to facilitate the mobilization of public and private sector resources to support the implementation of the Millennium Declaration target on slums at country and city levels in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, is one of the most innovative strategies of UN-Habitat. When fully functional, it will provide financing for the mobilization of seed capital and technical assistance to develop and support mechanisms for mobilizing domestic resources and capital in order to improve the availability of affordable housing, adequate shelter and infrastructure. The facility links four key groups, comprising local authorities, community-based organizations, local finance institutions and international donor programmes. It will also play a catalytic and preparatory role in leveraging domestic investment for slum upgrading and other pro-poor human settlements development.

28. UN-Habitat initiated the strategy of Habitat programme managers, in collaboration with UNDP. The main responsibility of Habitat programme managers is to enhance normative work, especially with respect to implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Millennium Development Goals 7, targets 10 and 11, at the

country level. Habitat programme managers work to promote mainstreaming of human settlements issues in the poverty reduction strategy papers and United Nations development assistance frameworks. They oversee implementation of UN-Habitat programmes and projects at the country level. Their presence has reduced the number of missions undertaken. Even at this early stage, it has become clear that Habitat programme managers will have a significant impact on promoting the work of UN-Habitat at the country level. Lack of donor financial support for the Habitat programme managers is one of the challenges facing UN-Habitat. An increase in non-earmarked contributions and in the regular budget allocation would represent a meaningful and long-term solution to the problem.

29. The UN-Habitat Water and Sanitation Trust Fund was launched in 2004, to promote Millennium Development Goal 7, target 10, on water and sanitation. The Trust Fund, which is based on a well-coordinated programmatic approach, allows donors to improve their aid-effectiveness by contributing to a consolidated fund, dedicated to a well-defined goal with clearly set objectives. The Fund offers its contributors an opportunity to effectively target a high-priority sector by taking advantage of the mandate and well-demonstrated core competencies of UN-Habitat. The programme is developing a dedicated gender-mainstreaming component, with the collaboration of the African Development Bank and the Gender and Water Alliance. Selection of participating countries is based on the interest expressed by the countries, and the willingness to commit Government support, as set out in the Trust Fund document, among other indicative criteria. In 2005, the Trust Fund will undertake the following activities: full operationalization of the regional water programmes in Africa and Asia; implementation of the Lake Victoria initiative in six pilot towns; development of the Mekong regional initiative; further development of normative activities with emphasis on their application in the regional water programmes; and commencement of baseline data collection for monitoring progress in meeting Millennium Declaration Goal 7, target 10. A mid-term review of the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund is envisaged for early 2006.

Enabling civil society within the city

30. In addressing directly the problems of the world's slums, an enabling strategy is integral to the approach of UN-Habitat and is a substantial part of the value added by UN-Habitat in the slum upgrading process. Although time frames and strategies must be adjusted whenever communities engage in self-diagnosis and bootstrap development, enfranchisement is deeply gratifying to slum residents, who take greater ownership in their communities as a result. Governments and local authorities that commit to the empowerment of the poor are in effect leveraging public resources. They are, in addition, helping poor communities directly, especially in acquiring land, securing tenure and providing infrastructure and basic services. In the field, UN-Habitat disaster recovery activities related to the South Asian tsunami are bringing a long-term community-oriented perspective to rapid recovery efforts of sister agencies and non-governmental organizations in Indonesia, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand. It is the same enabling orientation that has proved so valuable in repairing shattered communities in Afghanistan, Iraq, Kosovo, Somalia the Sudan and other countries of recent conflict. In fact, UN-Habitat community-based work in Somalia has led to the inclusion of UN-Habitat in the Executive Committee for Humanitarian Affairs.

G. Financial management

31. The management and monitoring of the UN-Habitat regular budget resources showed a utilization rate of 89 per cent of the approved allotment in 2004. There was a slight increase over the 2002-2003 biennium allotment as a result of the approval of the two additional posts for the 2004-2005 biennium. Regular budget resources constituted 30 per cent of the core allotted resources, excluding project funds, and they remain a key resource in the effective implementation of the activities outlined in the programme budget.

32. The total voluntary contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation increased by 28 per cent, from US$ 25.5 million in 2003 to US$ 32.7 million in 2004. An increase in both the general-purpose and special-purpose contributions was recorded during 2004, with the general-purpose contributions amounting to US$ 10.5 million and the special-purpose contributions to US$ 22.2 million. While both general-purpose and special-purpose contributions recorded an all-time high, there remains an imbalance between the two types of contributions. The donor base for these contributions has remained relatively narrow.

33. Expenditure against allotments for the extrabudgetary resources, excluding project funding, was at 93 per cent of the approved allotment and was within the expected target rate at this time of the year.

34. The income received for technical cooperation activities grew by more than 200 per cent, from US$ 15.2 million in 2003 to US$ 52.5 million in 2004. In 2005, the utilization of the core resources, regular budget and extrabudgetary resources, excluding project funds, is expected to remain within the authorized allotments.

H. Human resources management

35. In 2003, the total vacancy rate, excluding projects posts, was 2.7 per cent for Professional and General Service staff and 3.4 per cent for Professional staff only. By December 2004, the vacancy rate, excluding projects posts, was 8.9 per cent for Professional and General Service staff and 11.9 per cent for Professional staff only. In 2004, the gender balance for all Professional posts was 35.7 per cent female and 64.3 per cent male, an improvement compared to 2003, when the percentage was 35.2.

36. Attempts are currently under way to fill the vacant posts as quickly as possible and to bring the vacancy rates within the established rate of 5 per cent and maintain them within that range. In order to improve the gender balance, UN-Habitat will increase its efforts to recruit women into the Professional categories in 2005. A special effort will be made with regard to recruitment at senior Professional levels. That remains a challenge, as many of the posts require technical expertise that may not be readily available among women. With regard to recruitment from unrepresented and underrepresented Member States, UN-Habitat remains committed to employing Professionals from such countries and hopes to improve in that regard in 2005.

I. Information management

37. In 2004, UN-Habitat launched an Intranet to facilitate easy access to information for staff in their day-to-day work. The Intranet provides a central repository containing documents on substantive programmes, an events calendar to improve coordination of meetings and provide easy access to background documentation for meetings, a global staff directory, which includes the names of UN-Habitat staff not based at Headquarters, a virtual library to provide quick access to online subscriptions to research and reference material, and an image gallery with UN-Habitat photographs, which can be easily downloaded for use in publications.

38. In 2004, UN-Habitat developed an integrated database of key partners that will be launched in 2005. This database will be accessible on the UN-Habitat Intranet and parts of it will also be available on the public site. It will improve the organization's capacity to better target its communications, publications and invitations to events. It will also eliminate duplication of effort and provide easy-to-use tools for updating the database and generating targeted mailing lists.

39. A publications management system to support the planning, monitoring and reporting on the organization's publications programme was developed in 2004. The system, which is available via the organization's Intranet, gives all UN-Habitat staff in Nairobi and the field access to the organization's publications programme. It enables authoring sections to add new publications and monitor the progress of the publication process, and allows for updating of the editorial, design and print sections on the status of the production. The system also provides management reporting for the Publications Board and monitoring of expenditure on publications, as well as ensures that the programme is in line with the approved programme of work.

40. UN-Habitat collaborated with the United Nations Environment Programme on a project to re-establish the library in Nairobi. The new library, which also has a website, was opened in June 2004. It has an up-to-date and consolidated collection of materials on human settlements issues and provides online services to library visitors. About 17,600 visitors were received by the library in 2004.

41. During the second session of the World Urban Forum, held in September 2004, all meeting documents, including pre-session, in-session and approved documents, the daily journal and the daily programme, were posted on the UN-Habitat website. The website was also used to publish documents for other major events such as World Habitat Day and other major meetings announced on its calendar of events.

III. Recommendations

42. **Governments are encouraged to include human settlements in their national development plans and to promote city and metropolitan planning in their national poverty reduction strategy documents and in their United Nations development assistance frameworks.**

43. **Governments are encouraged to assess conditions and trends in their urban slums and to create a pro-poor policy environment that places the highest priority on improving the living environments of slum dwellers, as per**

targets 10 and 11 of Millennium Development Goal 7, and are invited to collaborate with UN-Habitat in monitoring the implementation of these targets.

44. **Governments are encouraged to participate, and to support the participation of Habitat partner groups from developing countries, in the third session of the World Urban Forum, to be held in Vancouver, Canada, in June 2006.**

45. **Governments in a position to do so are encouraged to increase the non-earmarked component of their contribution in order to facilitate the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the relevant commitments of the Millennium Declaration, particularly the commitment to achieve a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020.**

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Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits

Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227, 52/12 B and 57/270 B

Updated report of the Secretary-General on the role of the Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, in the light of General Assembly resolutions 50/227, 52/12 B and 57/270 B

Summary

At its 2004 substantive session, the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2004/44 decided to merge the review of the progress made in the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227, 52/12 B, and 57/270 B and requested a single report. Following the request of the Council, the present report focuses on progress made in the implementation of the three resolutions.

The review of the methods of the work of the General Assembly and its Second and Third Committees are ongoing. Further work will be needed to complete the consultations successfully. With regard to the Council and its subsidiary machinery, progress has been made in several areas, including strengthening thematic unity across the different segments of the Council's substantive session; review of the working methods of the functional commissions; strengthening of the role of the United Nations regional commissions in conference follow-up. At the same time additional efforts need to be made to enhance cooperation among functional commissions and to strengthen cooperation between regional commissions and the funds and programmes.

* E/2005/100.

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I. Background

1. In paragraph 39 of its resolution 57/270 B, the General Assembly decided to include an item entitled "Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields" in the annual agenda of the General Assembly and invited the Secretary-General to submit a report on the question.

2. At its 2004 substantive session, the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2004/44 decided to merge the review of the progress made in the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227, 52/12 B and 57/270 B and requested a single report on the implementation of the resolutions. The resolutions lend themselves to a joint consideration as they build upon and complement each other.

3. Resolution 50/227, "Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields", focuses on ways of enhancing the role of the United Nations in the field of development. They include an increase in resources for operational activities and greater coherence in the work of the Second and Third Committee, and a strengthened role of the Economic and Social Council in system-wide coordination and enhanced linkages with trade and financial institutions. Resolution 52/12 B, "Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform", includes several provisions relating to reforms in the economic and social fields, as well as development and humanitarian affairs.

4. Resolution 57/270 B, "Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields", aims to enhance coherence in the different conference follow-up processes, while maintaining their distinct identity. It also provides guidance to better coordinate global, regional and national development activities and to ensure that those activities are mutually supportive as well as contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. It calls upon the Economic and Social Council to continue to strengthen its role as the central mechanism for system-wide coordination. It also recognizes the need to further strengthen cooperation with the international financial and trading institutions and the important role of civil society and the private sector in advancing the implementation of conference outcomes.

II. Introduction

5. The United Nations summits and conferences of the last 15 years generated a global consensus on policies and actions to advance the objectives of eradicating poverty and promoting sustainable development and provide a basic framework for pursuing those objectives. The Millennium Summit built on the outcomes of those summits and conferences and reinforced some of their key messages. The outcomes, together with the development-related aspects of the Millennium Declaration constitute the United Nations development agenda (see E/2005/56).

6. A much sharper focus on implementation of the internationally agreed goals and targets of the United Nations development agenda remains imperative. Though the Council initiated work on developing an integrated approach to the

implementation of the conference outcomes by focusing on their common themes since 1995, further efforts are required to steer the United Nations development system towards both more sustained and better integrated follow-up action.

7. The substantive aspects of an integrated follow-up to conferences have been discussed in the report of the Secretary-General for the High-level Segment of the Economic and Social Council (A/60/56). The present report focuses on progress made in the implementation of the three resolutions.

III. Further strengthening the role of the General Assembly and its Second and Third Committees in the coordinated and integrated follow-up to the comprehensive development agenda

8. As called for in resolutions 50/227, 57/270 B, 58/126 and 58/316, the review of the work of the General Assembly and its Second and Third Committees, especially as they relate to the implementation of and the follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences is ongoing. It is aimed at enhancing the policy leadership role of the General Assembly on development issues. That can be achieved by improving working methods that allow maximum focus, visibility and political energy towards the achievement of the United Nations development agenda.

A. The General Assembly

9. Since the General Assembly adopted resolutions 58/126 of 19 December 2003 and 58/316 of 1 July 2004, informal consultations have continued during its fifty-ninth session on its revitalization. Member States have pointed to the need to strengthen the role of the General Committee of the Assembly, continue to streamline and reduce the number of items on the agenda, adopt shorter and more focused resolutions, and streamline documentation without in any way compromising analytical depth and coverage. Those broad goals have formed the basis for consultations among Member States. While a consensus on improving the methods of work of the General Assembly and several of its main committees is yet to emerge, consultations are ongoing in the context of the next phase of reforms of the Organization. Those consultations are now linked to the issues of institutional reform being considered in preparation for the September Summit.

10. In the context of the need for better cooperation and improved division of labour between the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, the Presidents of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council held two meetings in 2004 aimed at increased cooperation, coordination and complementarity of the work programmes of the three organs, as called for in resolution 58/126. That process will continue in the context of the next round of reforms and will also need to take into account the proposal to establish a peacebuilding commission as proposed in the Secretary-General's report for the September Summit (A/59/2005).

B. The Second Committee

11. The Chairman of the Second Committee at the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly submitted a set of proposals, which the Committee tried to implement during its fifty-ninth session. They include early meetings between the outgoing and incoming Bureau; introduction of question-and-answer sessions; better use of the Second Committee's website; early distribution of and consultation on the organization of work; avoidance of overlapping with plenary meetings; elaboration and distribution of the Chairman's summary of the general debate; extensive but rational use of panels, keynote speakers and round tables; compliance with the deadlines for the submission of draft resolutions; early start of negotiations and early adoption of resolutions; and clustering and better sequencing for the consideration of the agenda of the Committee.

12. During the fifty-ninth session, consultations continued on several other aspects of the improvement of the working methods. Following a series of consultations, the Second Committee agreed on a conference room paper (A/C.2/59/CRP.2/Rev.1) which emphasized the need for reaching timely consensus on items on the agenda, preserving the substantive nature of the resolutions; organizing discussions and events designed to contribute to a broader understanding and consideration of the issues; and maintaining the practice of allocating sufficient time after the formal consideration of each cluster allowing for negotiations. That would help the Committee in adopting resolutions in a timely fashion. It also requested the Committee on Conferences to consider advancing the timing of the Trade and Development Board meeting so that its report could be made available by the middle of September in order to enable the timely consideration of sub-items under the "Macroeconomic policy questions" cluster. The conference room paper also proposed that side events should be held in close proximity to the substantive discussion of the relevant agenda items and noted that greater attention should be given to the increasing role of side events organized by Member States that are related to the agenda of the Committee.

13. It was agreed that discussions on outstanding issues, related especially to the streamlining of the agenda, as well as strengthening cooperation with the Third Committee would continue.

14. **The Second Committee needs to take decisions this year on the outstanding issues, particularly streamlining and reclustering items on the agenda, and the division of labour and strengthened coordination with the Third Committee and the Economic and Social Council.**

C. The Third Committee

15. During the fifty-ninth session, the Third Committee approved a Chairman's text on the revitalization of its work, deciding to rationalize its agenda by merging some items, triennializing others and transferring some to the General Assembly in plenary meeting. Several far-reaching measures were agreed upon to improve the working methods of the Committee. They include measures to promote more interactive discussions as part of the formal proceedings; introduction at its sixtieth session, on a pilot basis, of interactive debates in an informal setting; submitting resolutions that are concise, focused and designed to have an impact on policy

development; and tabling resolutions biennially or at longer intervals and avoiding duplication especially where they have already been adopted by the Economic and Social Council or its subsidiary bodies.

16. Significantly, the Third Committee agreed to make renewed efforts to reduce the number of requests for reports from the Secretary-General, including through consolidation of reports. It was stressed that there should be no "automaticity" about requesting the Secretary-General's reports.

17. To strengthen coordination with the other Main Committees, joint panel discussions and meetings on issues of common interest were highlighted. Those changes are far-reaching and when implemented will serve to improve coherence and bring added value to the work of the Third Committee, as well as contribute to the work of other Main Committees, particularly the Second Committee.

IV. Further strengthening the role of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary machinery in the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227, 52/12 B and 57/270 B

A. Strengthening the role of the Economic and Social Council

1. Promoting a coherent, integrated and coordinated approach

18. The Economic and Social Council has a critical role to play in promoting a coherent, integrated and coordinated approach for the achievement of the United Nations development agenda. While efforts have been undertaken towards strengthening the role of the Council in conference follow-up, there is a need to infuse them with greater dynamism and result orientation. The Secretary-General's report at the high-level segment highlights the need for the United Nations system to integrate and align fully policies and programmes with the United Nations development agenda, particularly the Millennium Development Goals. At the intergovernmental level, there is an immediate need for a more coherent, coordinated and focused approach to monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the development agenda. To that end, **the Council needs to finalize, within the framework of actions that will be taken in the light of the proposals made in the Secretary-General's report at the high-level segment of the Council, the requirements contained in paragraph 42 of resolution 57/270 B, in which the General Assembly requested it to establish, no later than 2004, a four-year multi-year work programme for the coordination segment of its substantive session. Efforts should be made to agree on a full four-year multi-year programme of work that is effectively linked to the United Nations development agenda.**

2. Ensuring thematic unity and interlinkages between the different segments

19. A clear message emanating from resolution 57/270 B is the need to focus the Council's annual session around one broad theme. As a first step towards ensuring greater coherence, the Council decided that the high-level and coordination segments would focus on the same cross-sectoral conference themes (or related themes), but would also address them from both a policy development and a

coordination perspective. In recent years the themes of the high-level segments have provided the broad basis for the themes of the coordination and operational activities segments. While thematic unity is to be pursued, there is a need to address the issue of thematic unity and interlinkages among the segments within the framework of the actions that will be taken on proposals made in the Secretary-General's report to the high-level segment of the Council, in particular the proposal for a peer review and the holding of a development cooperation forum.

3. Streamlining the reporting system

20. Improving the effectiveness of the reporting system is another important element in strengthening the Council's policy setting and coordination functions. Reports submitted by the subsidiary, regional and related bodies of the Council provide it with a wealth of information and policy inputs relevant to not only the coordinated and integrated follow-up of the development agenda, but also for policy guidance, national development strategy formulation, evaluation and international cooperation. The Council has addressed itself to the question of better management and use of that information. The Bureau of the Council issued guidelines for documentation for the Council and its subsidiary bodies, drawn primarily from existing legislation in the General Assembly and the Council. The guidelines incorporate further steps to help to bring to manageable proportions and give greater focus to the documents submitted to the Council by its subsidiary bodies. **The subsidiary bodies should be encouraged to adhere to the guidelines for documentation.**

B. Strengthening the work of the United Nations functional commissions in support of implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227, 52/12 B and 57/270 B, as well as resolutions 56/201 and 59/250

21. The United Nations functional commissions have played a key role in the development and implementation of the United Nations development agenda, particularly acting as the preparatory committees for the international conferences and further in their follow-up. While individual functional commissions are, through their multi-year work programmes and priority themes, engaged in follow-up of the conference outcomes, stronger inter-commission coherence would lead to a more coordinated follow-up of the different goals and targets contained in the United Nations development agenda.

22. With that objective in view and to improve their own functioning, the General Assembly requested functional commissions and other relevant bodies of the Economic and Social Council in resolution 57/270 B[1] to review their working methods, strengthen cooperation among themselves, find ways to benefit from the lessons learned from each other, and report to the Council no later than 2005. That work is ongoing and several functional commissions have undertaken the exercise, the outcome of which is expected to lead to a more integrated implementation of the conference outcomes.

1. Review of working methods of the functional commissions

23. Following the request in resolution 57/270 B, to date most functional commissions have adopted multi-year programmes of work. To ensure continuity, most functional commissions now elect their incoming bureau immediately following the closure of their regular sessions. To strengthen the regional dimension, several commissions held panel events with the United Nations regional commissions as part of their session. The new methods of work have also encouraged an enhanced engagement of civil society and the private sector. A review of the work of the United Nations functional commissions on the implementation of the Millennium Declaration is provided in a separate 2005 consolidated report on the work of the Economic and Social Council functional commissions. Some functional commissions, such as the Commission on the Status of Women, the Statistical Commission, the Commission on Population and Development and the Commission for Social Development will continue to review their working methods at their next regular session. **The Council may wish to invite those functional commissions and other relevant subsidiary bodies that have not done so, to complete the examination of their methods of work, as a matter of urgency, in order to better pursue the implementation of the United Nations development agenda.**

2. Strengthening cooperation between functional commissions

24. Functional commissions are mostly working independently from one another on the follow-up to specific conferences and summits. That has caused a degree of compartmentalization and overlap as each functional commission tends to look at all thematic areas from within its own perspective. While that may be useful in highlighting several dimensions of an issue, it also leads to a disparate treatment of issues and sometimes does not blend coherently. That needs to be addressed at two levels.

25. At the Secretariat level, exchange of reports and other documents, joint activities and contacts between the various secretariats are the most common tools employed to ensure coherence of the work of the functional commissions. The substantive secretariats of five functional commissions that are located in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs are working together to coordinate their work programmes.

26. At the intergovernmental level, there is a need for greater interaction among the subsidiary bodies. To facilitate cooperation and exchange among the functional commissions and to strengthen coordination between the functional commissions and the Council, a meeting was held among the Chairs of the functional commissions and between the functional commissions and the Bureau of the Council in 2004. Information on the progress in the review of their working methods was shared with a focus on how to further enhance cooperation among functional commissions. Such meetings are also planned for the 2005 Economic and Social Council substantive session.[2]

27. **The Council should take it upon itself to provide a stronger coordinating function, inter alia, by harmonizing the functional commissions' multi-year programmes of work and their periodic cycles, standardizing reports in a more user-friendly manner, and by promoting integration of the outcomes of the deliberations of the functional commissions.**

3. Fostering cooperation between the functional commissions and the funds and programmes

28. In its resolution 57/270 B,[3] the General Assembly encouraged functional commissions to find ways to learn from the experience gained and lessons learned by the United Nations funds and programmes in the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits. To that end, functional commissions have made efforts, including through discussion panels, with representatives of the funds and programmes which have served to enrich each other's work. **The exchange of experiences and lessons learned between the functional commissions and the funds and programmes should be further enhanced, including through briefings by the United Nations Development Group Office (UNDGO).**

4. Strengthening cooperation between the Council and its functional commissions

29. For several years, annual meetings between the Bureau of the Council and the bureaux of the functional commissions have taken place. In the 2005 annual meeting discussions centred on the work of the commissions, measures to enhance collaboration among the functional commissions, and a review of their methods of work. The contribution of functional commissions to the work of the Council's substantive session on the themes of the high-level and coordination segments, as well as the possible contributions through the Council to the September Summit, was also discussed in the meeting.

30. Holding joint bureau meetings of the functional commissions and the Council during the regular sessions of the commissions allows for better coordination, timely information, inputs and guidance. It also has the added advantage that senior officials of bureau members participating in the Commission deliberations have an opportunity of interacting with the Bureau of the Council.

C. Cooperation between the Council and the United Nations regional commissions

31. Given the significant regional divergences in progress towards the achievement of the United Nations development agenda, mainstreaming the regional dimension into the overall work of the United Nations assumes added importance. This, however, is predicated upon a stronger two-way relationship with regional organizations. On the one hand, better integration of regional analysis into the global policy deliberations is required. On the other hand, comparative advantages of the regional commissions need to be better utilized in order to enhance coherence of the organizations' activities at the regional level, particularly, those undertaken in support of the United Nations development agenda. In that context, regional commissions have been given specific mandates from the Council for the follow-up of the major global conferences.[4] In response, they have undertaken efforts to link regional implementation measures with global deliberations and to contribute to policy implementation at the regional and country levels. **The Council will need to further strengthen its linkages with the regional commissions, particularly in the context of the peer reviews, which have been proposed by the Secretary-General in his report for the September Summit. The Council may wish to**

explore new modalities of enhancing its cooperation with the regional commissions, particularly in the preparation of reports on implementation.

1. Linking global deliberations with regional implementation initiatives

32. Cooperation between the Council and the regional commissions is a key instrument to ensure that global policy guidance provided by the Council is translated into concrete regional and subregional strategies for the implementation of the United Nations development agenda, including the Millennium Development Goals. It is equally important that global entities, when undertaking development initiatives, fully involve the relevant regional commissions. In the recent past, regional commissions have contributed to, and were involved in the work of the functional commissions, in particular, in the five- and ten-year review process of major international conferences. For example, in the plus-ten follow-up of the Beijing Declaration and Plan of Action and the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, several preparatory meetings were held with the regional commissions and their participation in the meetings of the respective functional commissions was facilitated.

33. Several regional commissions have strengthened their role as regional bodies for conference follow-up and implementation. In 2003, in preparation of the 2004 session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, five regional implementation meetings were organized to review and assess obstacles, constraints, challenges and opportunities in the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, with a particular focus on the thematic cluster of water, sanitation and human settlement. In 2005, regional implementation meetings will be organized in preparation for the 2006 Commission on Sustainable Development review session.

34. An important mechanism for the coherent implementation of and follow-up to the major United Nations conferences are the coordination meetings between the regional commissions and the funds and programmes, as well as the United Nations departments and offices and agencies of the United Nations system engaged in regional and subregional activities. Such coordination meetings called for by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1998/46, were launched in 1999 under the chairmanship of the Deputy Secretary-General.

2. Fostering horizontal interregional cooperation

35. Horizontal interregional cooperation — cooperation between the regional commissions — should be strengthened through knowledge sharing and networking. Recent meetings of chiefs of transport and programme planning, as well as the focal points for information and communication technologies and energy are initiatives which enhance cooperation among the regional commissions. Such meetings should be extended to other substantive areas of work. **Regional commissions should continue their efforts to strengthen cooperation among themselves through knowledge sharing and networking.**

3. Strengthening linkages between regional commissions and regional bodies/arrangements

36. Major economic and social processes have been taking place at the regional level through regional bodies and arrangements. Examples of such processes are regional economic integration, free trade arrangements, and regional cross-border investments, infrastructural projects like highways, railroads and information technologies. Those initiatives of the regional bodies and arrangements have a great impact on the common welfare of large populations by reducing poverty and unemployment, and are important in the achievement of the development goals. **The United Nations regional commissions should play a greater supportive role in infrastructure, trade, and technology initiatives of regional bodies.**

4. Enhancing cooperation between regional commissions, funds and programmes and specialized agencies

37. Closer links need to be established between the regional structures of the funds and programmes and the respective regional commissions, so as to fully utilize the United Nations substantive and operational capacity available in each region. The strategic compact between the regional commissions and UNDP (July 2000) was an important initiative which could be built upon further. The participation of regional commissions in the UNDG meetings has served to strengthen policy formulation and coordination. **United Nations regional commissions and the United Nations funds and programmes should develop closer links between themselves in order to enhance coherence in their work at the regional level.**

V. Strengthening the Council's cooperation with the funds and programmes, with specialized agencies and inter-agency bodies, and the international financial and trade institutions

38. A stronger link between the policy guidance role of the Economic and Social Council, its functional commissions and the operational activities arm is essential to ensure that global policy guidance on the integrated and coordinated follow-up to global conferences translates into effective support to regional, subregional and national efforts for their implementation. Similarly, regional and country-level experiences need to permeate further into global thinking and analysis.

39. That requires stronger linkages and greater coherence between global policy guidance and the policies and programmes endorsed by the Executive Boards of the United Nations funds and programmes, the governing bodies of the specialized agencies, the regional as well as the functional commissions, and the bureaux of the international finance and trade institutions.

40. As reviewed in previous sections of the report, several efforts are under way to promote cooperation of funds and programmes with functional commissions and to revitalize cooperation with the regional commissions. Initiatives have also been undertaken to facilitate greater cooperation among the governing bodies of the funds and programmes, such as the joint meetings of the Executive Boards of UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, and WFP, while the annual high-level meeting between the Economic and Social Council, the Bretton Woods institutions, WTO and UNCTAD have facilitated dialogue among those organizations.

41. While these important initiatives are works-in-progress, they need to coalesce into an integrated and cohesive approach through a United Nations system-wide framework. That has important implications for the Council's ability to promote a more integrated and coordinated follow-up to global conferences within the system in a way that enables it to translate such an approach into system-wide strategies and programmes.

42. Closer links need to be built between the Council and the governing bodies of the United Nations system organizations. Meetings between the bureaux of the functional commissions and the Bureau of the Council and the participation of the chairpersons of the functional commissions in the Council's sessions have helped to improve the dialogue between the Council and the functional commissions. **Commissions and their secretariats should clearly identify the operational implications of their work and bring them to the attention of the governing bodies of the funds and programmes for their consideration and guidance on operational activities to strengthen the link between policy guidance and operational activities.**

VI. Complying with the specific mandates of the Council

A. International Conference on Financing for Development

43. The Monterrey Consensus established a follow-up process to the Conference in both the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

44. In the General Assembly, resolution 59/225 on "Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development" was adopted on 22 December 2004. The General Assembly also decided in resolution 59/145 of 17 December 2004 to hold a High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development on 27 and 28 June 2005, in New York, immediately prior to the Economic and Social Council 2005 High-level Segment, in order for its recommendations to be considered in the preparatory process of General Assembly High-level Plenary Meeting and within its framework, to hold a separate meeting on financing for development.

45. The 2005 special high-level meeting of the Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, the WTO and (since 2004) UNCTAD, focused on the theme of "Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration" in the context of the overall focus of the meeting on "Coherence, coordination and cooperation in the context of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus". Six round tables addressing three issues: (a) policies and strategies; (b) trade, investment, and private flows; and (c) ODA, innovative sources of financing and debt were held. The unprecedented participation by the Executive Directors of the Boards of the Bretton Woods institutions and a significant number of Finance and other Ministers, Central Bank Governors, as well as the President of the Trade and Development Board was testimony to the fact that that meeting is considered an important platform for enhancing coherence within the system, not only in the follow-up to Monterrey, but also in the pursuit of the broader development agenda. Participants concurred with regard to the urgency to build momentum towards the September Summit and accelerate progress in implementation of the development goals. Advancing the implementation of the

Monterrey Consensus was seen as a critical element to that end. In addition, participants highlighted the growing interest in pursuing several of the initiatives regarding innovative sources of finance.

B. The Almaty Programme of Action: addressing the special needs of landlocked developing countries within a new global framework for transit, transport cooperation

46. An "Inter-agency meeting on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action", held in New York on 4 February 2004, endorsed a road map for its implementation. In its resolution 59/245 of 22 December 2004, on specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries, the General Assembly invited the 2005 High-level General Assembly Plenary Meeting to address the special needs of landlocked developing countries.

47. Representatives of the international, regional and subregional organizations met in Almaty, Kazakhstan, from 29 to 31 March 2005, for the high-level meeting on the "Role of International, Regional and Subregional Organizations for the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action". In a communiqué representatives stressed the importance of taking concrete steps in accordance with the road map for the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and requested the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to continue its consultations on the best possible ways to facilitate coordination efforts and to continue to organize meetings on an annual basis.

C. Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

48. In 2004, the Council's substantive session addressed themes related to least developed countries issues as part of the Council's efforts to pursue a coherent and comprehensive approach to the review of the implementation of the Programme of Action. Preparatory activities including a series of multi-stakeholder round tables on resources mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication were held in February and March 2004 to examine the theme of the high-level segment in the context of the Brussels Programme of Action as a means of achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the least developed countries.

49. In the high-level segment, the Council adopted a Ministerial Declaration on the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 recognizing the weak implementation of the Programme of Action and underlining the need to address that issue. To that end, the Declaration urged each least developed country, with the support of its development partners, to continue the implementation of the actions contained in the Programme of Action by translating them into specific measures, within its national development framework and poverty eradication strategy.

50. The coordination segment reviewed the efforts of the United Nations system to promote an integrated approach to rural development with a special focus on the

least developed countries. In its resolution 2004/48, the Council called for enhanced coordination and cooperation among the agencies of the United Nations system in support of national development strategies as well as in enhancing their cooperation with the World Bank and the regional development banks. The United Nations system was called upon to further assist developing countries in their efforts to enhance access by the poor to productive assets, to support capacity-building measures as well as regional and subregional initiatives and to promote South-South cooperation.

51. The Second Committee reviewed the implementation and invited the 2005 September Summit to address the special needs of the least developed countries, while reviewing the progress made in the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration. It also decided to hold a comprehensive review of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries in 2006, during the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, in accordance with paragraph 114 of the Programme of Action. The Committee also reiterated its concern over the weak implementation of the Programme of Action.

52. At the special high-level meeting held in April 2005 with the Bretton Woods institutions, the WTO, and UNCTAD, the Council also addressed issues related to least developed countries/low-income countries and promoted linkage between the Programme of Action and the International Conference on Financing for Development.

VII. Enhancing the Council's cooperation with and the role of civil society and the private sector for development

53. The Summits and Conferences recognized the role of civil society and the private sector in achieving the development goals and targets set out in them. The Millennium Declaration (General Assembly resolution 55/2) also recognized their role and it commits Governments "to develop strong partnerships with the private sector and with civil society organizations in pursuit of development and poverty eradication". In recent years, the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions have significantly intensified the involvement of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, foundations, parliamentarians and local authorities, and the private sector. Perhaps the most innovative and successful of the Council's multi-stakeholder initiatives is the Information and Communication Technology Task Force. Non-governmental organizations and members of the business community also participate actively in the annual special high-level meetings with the Bretton Woods institutions, WTO and UNCTAD. Prior to these meetings, public hearings are organized to enable Member States and other stakeholders to interact with civil society and the private sector on the key issues. These initiatives have enriched the proceedings of the Council and its subsidiary bodies.

54. At the national and regional levels, civil society organizations are increasingly participating in the development process, including through programmes and initiatives for the eradication of poverty. Worldwide, non-governmental organizations have also been at the forefront of delivery of humanitarian assistance.

55. A dynamic private sector is essential for the successful implementation and follow-up of the goals and targets set out in the conferences and summits. Public-private partnerships established to deal with the challenges of development have systematically grown. Private sector companies are today active partners in many parts of the developing world in every aspect of development. The United Nations is actively involved in promoting the role of the private sector. Under the aegis of the United Nations Global Compact the Global Compact Leaders Summit was convened at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 24 June 2004 in which 500 chief executive officers, government officials and heads of labour and civil society on the topic of global corporate citizenship gathered for the first meeting of its kind. The meeting adopted anti-corruption as an additional principle of the 10 internationally agreed principles of the compact.

Notes

[1] In its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, the General Assembly requested each functional commission to examine its methods of work in order to better pursue the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, recognizing that there is no need for a uniform approach since each functional commission has its own specificity, while also noting that modern methods of work can better guarantee the review of progress made in implementation at all levels, bearing in mind the progress recently achieved in this regard by certain commissions, especially the Commission on Sustainable Development. The Assembly requested the functional commissions and other relevant bodies of the Economic and Social Council to report to the Council no later than 2005 on the outcome of the examination.

[2] A meeting between the chairs of the functional commissions is scheduled to be held on 1 July 2005 and a meeting of the chairs of the functional commissions with the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council is planned for 7 July 2005.

[3] In paragraph 48 of resolution 57/270 B, the General Assembly invited functional commissions to consider, in their deliberations, the experience gained and lessons learned by the United Nations funds and programmes in the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits.

[4] In its resolution 1998/46, the Council invited regional commissions to further strengthen their active participation in implementation at the regional level of the results of the major United Nations conferences and summits. In resolution 57/270 B the General Assembly invited regional commissions, in collaboration with other regional and subregional organizations and processes, to contribute, within their existing mandates, to the review of progress in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits and to provide input to the discussions of the Council on the cross-sectoral thematic issues to be discussed at the Council's substantive session.

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Assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In paragraph 8 of its resolution 59/45, the General Assembly took note of the decision of the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2000/32, to continue its consideration of the question of assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions; invited the Council, at its organizational session for 2005, to make appropriate arrangements for this purpose within its programme of work for 2005; further invited the Council to continue its consideration of the question of assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions; and decided to transmit the most recent report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions, together with the relevant background materials, to the Council at its substantive session of 2005.

2. Pursuant to the provisions of Council resolution 2000/32 and Assembly resolution 59/45, the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions (A/59/334) will be made available to the Council at its substantive session of 2005.

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Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2004/05

Summary

The present report provides an overview of major developments in inter-agency cooperation during 2004/05 within the framework of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB).

In the course of 2004/05, CEB completed its programme of pursuing themes identified in the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on the implementation of the Millennium Declaration. CEB reflections on these themes were designed to provide a system-wide perspective to the process of monitoring and reporting by the Secretary-General on progress achieved in the implementation of the Declaration. In that context, it took up the themes "Bridging the digital divide and fostering inter-agency collaboration in information and communication technology" and "Prevention of armed conflicts" at its fall 2004 and spring 2005 sessions, respectively. While CEB and its structures continued to cover a wide range of issues to ensure greater coherence and build synergies in the actions taken by the system, since 2003 it has given high priority to the elaboration of the system's collective contribution to the comprehensive review of the implementation of the Millennium Declaration at the 2005 High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly. A report from CEB entitled "One United Nations — catalyst for progress and change: how the Millennium Declaration is changing the way the United Nations system works" will be presented to the Assembly. CEB also continued to review its support for Africa and the New Partnership for Africa's Development and for curbing transnational crime, among other issues.

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In the management area, CEB continued to focus on the safety and security of staff and adopted a unified security management system and new approach to cost-sharing and field-related security costs. It also decided on various measures to strengthen managerial capacity across the system and harmonize staff management policies and practices, a common framework for results-based budgeting to guide inter-agency work, and the development of accounting standards for the organizations of the common system.

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I. Introduction

1. Since 2001, the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) has built its policy agenda around the themes identified in the Secretary-General's first report on the implementation of the Millennium Declaration (A/56/326). In that report, the Secretary-General set out a broad road map for the follow-up process and proposed two topics on which the process might focus each year, leading to a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Declaration in 2005. Thus, in 2002, it took up the treatment and prevention of diseases, including HIV/AIDS and malaria, and the prevention of armed conflict; in 2003, strategies for sustainable development and financing for development; and in 2004, curbing transnational crime and bridging the digital divide. The outcomes of these discussions have served as input to the Secretary-General's annual reports on the follow-up to the Declaration and provided the focus of the annual reports of CEB since 2001. The intention was to contribute a system-wide perspective to the process of monitoring and reporting by the Secretary-General on progress achieved in implementing the Declaration. Beyond this, CEB has sought to shape a set of common and complementary approaches to guide the work of the United Nations system in advocacy, analysis, resource mobilization and operational activities in support of key system-wide goals embodied in the Millennium Declaration.

2. The work of CEB during the period under review (which includes its fall 2004 and spring 2005 sessions) was dominated by the preparations for the comprehensive review of the implementation of the Millennium Declaration that will take place in the General Assembly in September 2005. This involved, in the first instance, an intensive process of reflection on the overall response of the system to the Millennium Declaration, as part of the system's determination to be held accountable for its role in supporting progress in its implementation. The focus of the reflection was on the impact that the Declaration has had on the coherence of the system's work and on the quality and effectiveness of inter-agency collaboration; on gathering, on a system-wide basis, assessments and lessons learned as to the strategies and interventions that best make for progress, particularly the linkages among them that most affect development outcomes and their sustainability, and on how the system can best advance them; and on collectively developing a vision of the way ahead for the system, encompassing a drive to further both policy coherence and managerial effectiveness. The highlights of this reflection have been gathered in a publication soon to be issued, entitled, "One United Nations — catalyst for progress and change: how the Millennium Declaration is changing the way the United Nations system works", which should be read in conjunction with the present report. The publication offers a comprehensive account of how organizations of the system are increasingly working together to help countries reach the goals of the Declaration, identifies the constraints and challenges in building the United Nations system into a cohesive force for progress and change, and outlines the conditions for, and the system's commitments to, enhancing its contribution to accelerating progress in the period ahead.

3. The United Nations system is deeply conscious of its responsibilities, through the quality of its interventions and the effectiveness of the collaborative work it is able to generate, for advancing the international community's commitment to multilateralism — of the challenge it faces of demonstrating that multilateralism does work and deliver. At the same time, the system's efforts for enhancing

coherence and effectiveness will ultimately succeed only if backed by genuine political will and adequate resources. The political force of the outcome of the September high-level event in the General Assembly will be crucial. It should generate a momentum capable of being sustained in the various intergovernmental bodies that provide policy direction to the organizations of the system, and of focusing and deepening the common guidance that the central intergovernmental organs provide to the system, both in respect of development policy and management of the common system.

4. Chapters II to VII of the present report highlight the outcomes of discussions in CEB and its High-Level Committees during the past year on substantive issues relevant to the system's implementation of the Millennium Declaration. These included issues, such as conflict prevention and curbing transnational crime, that CEB had previously taken up and to which it reverted during the period under review to follow up on its previous decisions. Chapter VI responds to a specific request from the Committee for Programme and Coordination for information on mechanisms to coordinate the fight against hunger, while chapter VII reverts to the issue of the United Nations system's support for Africa and the New Partnership for Africa's Development. Chapter VIII focuses on the continuing efforts of the system to strengthen its coherence at the country level, and chapters IX to XII cover management issues including staff safety and security, enhancing human resources management, the impact on management and programmes of the changing relationship between regular and voluntary funding, and United Nations system oversight.

II. Follow-up to the Millennium Summit: United Nations system contribution to the 2005 comprehensive review of the implementation of the Millennium Declaration

5. In 2004, CEB began to consider its contribution to the preparations for the 2005 comprehensive review of the implementation of the Millennium Declaration. It decided that a special report focusing on the impact of the Millennium Declaration on the workings of the system and on the quality of the support that the system is extending to Member States would serve as a useful contribution to the 2005 review.

6. At its spring 2005 session, CEB reviewed the progress being made in preparing that report. The Secretary-General's own report to the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly scheduled for September 2005 — "In larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all" (A/59/2005) — provided the overall context of the discussion. Executive heads expressed deep appreciation for the leadership of the Secretary-General and strong support for the thrust of his report. In particular, CEB welcomed the report's call for a comprehensive response, addressing in a balanced way development, security and human rights and their interlinkages. The crucial importance of a successful outcome of the High-level Plenary Meeting for the whole of the system was emphasized. The Executive heads committed to engage their governing bodies and to use all available occasions until the September High-level Plenary Meeting to galvanize support for a successful outcome.

7. Against this background, CEB provided direction to the High-Level Committee on Programmes for the finalization of the special report on the response

of the United Nations system to the Millennium Declaration, "*One United Nations — catalyst for progress and change: how the Millennium Declaration is changing the way the United Nations system works*". The report will highlight the new orientations and approaches guiding the work of the United Nations system under the Declaration's broad themes — poverty eradication and sustainable development; human rights, democracy and governance; and prevention of armed conflicts. It will also set out the main directions for continued progress within the system in translating the vision of the Millennium Declaration into action.

8. The main messages are:

(a) The Declaration has broadened the perspectives of all parts of the system, sharpening the focus of what they do for countries, increasing the coherence of their joint activities and capturing the synergies made possible from working together;

(b) Joint programming and joint programmes, both global and national, are increasing the system's responsiveness and synergies in tailoring interventions to country needs;

(c) Deeper analysis and broader knowledge-sharing — of what works, what does not and why — are increasing the effectiveness and impact of the system's programmes;

(d) As the different parts of the United Nations system are able, by working better together, to maximize results in helping countries reach the Declaration's goals, the case for multilateralism will be greatly strengthened.

9. In the concluding chapter, the report will outline the main orientations that will guide further efforts by the organizations of the system to enhance the effectiveness of their support for the implementation of the Millennium Declaration:

(a) Overcoming fragmentation and achieving greater unity of purpose and action;

(b) Mobilizing all available resources and capacities within the system itself, promoting mutual reinforcement between their advocacy, normative and analytical work and operational activities, and engaging in concerted action with civil society;

(c) Strengthening and unifying the system's presence at the country level;

(d) Focusing on capacity development around shared priorities through:

(i) More purposeful management of knowledge and sharing of knowledge;

(ii) Greater coordination in the gathering and dissemination of data;

(iii) A more systematic sharing of best practices and success stories;

(iv) A common strategy for better exploiting information and communication technology (ICT);

(v) Building a system-wide culture around common security and development agendas and shared management objectives of transparency and accountability.

10. Underlying the concept of "one United Nations" is a concerted effort to build a system increasingly:

(a) Driven by goals and accountable for better, concrete results;

(b) Committed to deepening and sharing knowledge;

(c) Geared to optimize the sequencing of its interventions, tailoring programmes to country needs;

(d) Guided by an open approach to multilateralism and a deliberate effort to advance a multilateralism that works and delivers.

11. A number of specific initiatives under way will help shape and give specific direction to this overall effort. This is the overall framework within which the Director-General of the International Labour Organization is engaging the CEB system in the process of follow-up to the conclusions of the World Commission on the Social Dimensions of Globalization, to launch policy coherence initiatives across the organizations of the system so as to examine interactions between investment, global growth and employment and what policies need to be pursued to achieve better overall results. Another illustration is a United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) initiative that has resulted in the setting up of an open-ended inter-agency task force to elaborate a Millennium Development Goal-based common agenda for collaborative work among organizations of the United Nations system focusing on economic development as a means for advancing the attainment of the development goals of the Millennium Declaration. Work is under way to identify priority areas for collaboration and develop a results-oriented and time-bound work plan among the organizations involved.

III. Bridging the digital divide and fostering inter-agency collaboration in information and communication technology

12. CEB and its High-Level Committees have continued to address ICT from two interrelated vantage points: first, the coherence of the policy advice that the system provides to countries in setting comprehensive, forward-looking strategies to harness information and communication technology for economic and social progress, and second, the imperative for the system to capitalize on the unprecedented opportunity that ICT offers the organizations of the United Nations system for the creation, sharing and management of knowledge.

Bridging the digital divide

13. The key objective of achieving a comprehensive and coherent United Nations system approach to ICT as a source of economic and social progress is being considerably advanced by the World Summit on the Information Society. Individually and collectively, including through the International Telecommunication Union-led High-level Summit Organizing Committee, organizations of the system are actively engaged in aligning their programmes with the outcome of the Geneva phase of the World Summit. The High-level Summit Organizing Committee, responsible for supporting at the inter-agency level the preparations for the second phase of the World Summit, has analysed the changing patterns of the digital divide, the emerging information society and its building blocks, and their implications for the work of the United Nations system in support

of development, including in particular the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

14. Many organizations within the system are providing policy advice on the formulation and implementation of national e-strategies, on regulatory reform and institutional development and on programmes and projects to improve connectivity, capacity and local content development. Initiatives within the system are multiplying to provide technical assistance and support for ICT applications in areas ranging from education and health to e-government and e-commerce. Nonetheless, the need remains for greater coordination of these efforts and their closer integration with the broader development agenda.

15. Inter-agency discussions have concluded that a more coherent and collaborative approach to ICT policy advice and programme support requires:

(a) Millennium Development Goal-focused e-strategies integrated into national development plans and priorities;

(b) Policy and regulatory reform that balances the advantages of an open and competitive environment with the need to serve the needs of the poor and underprivileged;

(c) Multi-stakeholder partnerships combining official, private and non-profit resources and capacities to support ICT for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals;

(d) Multilateral solutions capitalizing on the transnational character of the information technology revolution;

(e) Pro-poor business models;

(f) Joint and scaled-up efforts to promote connectivity and access and development of local ICT capacity, content and applications to advance the Millennium Development Goals;

(g) Innovative funding mechanisms.

16. Under the aegis of CEB, the High-Level Committee on Programmes, in close consultation with the High-level Summit Organizing Committee, is working on mainstreaming and integrating ICT into the broader development agenda, including through the elaboration of system-wide approaches and guidelines for use by country representatives and by the resident coordinator system. Working closely with the High-Level Committee on Management and its ICT Network, the High-Level Committee on Programmes is also focusing on developing a clear vision of a United Nations system-wide knowledge management system, its optimum functionality and implementation options.

Fostering inter-agency collaboration in information and communication technology

17. The system's ability to develop greater coherence in ICT policy advice and programme support within the framework of its development agenda depends in many ways on its ability to create, manage and share information and knowledge across the system more efficiently and effectively. Knowledge, information and data are the system's principal assets and a main source of its comparative advantage.

The system, however, has yet to take full advantage of these assets and create a seamless knowledge-based system to effectively capture, manage and disseminate data, information and other relevant assets across organizations and their constituencies. The aim is to leverage the wealth of information currently available within the United Nations system to maximize the impact and results of its programmes and activities.

18. Under the guidance of CEB, a system-wide ICT strategy is being elaborated as an essential component of the overall effort to enhance the system's cost-effectiveness and efficiency and strengthen its capacity to manage knowledge in ways that can maximize the support it provides to countries in using ICT for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

19. The strategy represents a major shift in the perception of the role of technology within the United Nations system, away from simply providing a technical infrastructure to exploiting its enabling role. The strategy addresses areas where consolidated operations can result in savings and focuses on ways in which a more effective use of the technology can result in more efficient operations. The strategy thus goes beyond technology implementation. It seeks to articulate the drivers for technology planning so as to ensure that any investment in technology aligns with the knowledge-based needs of the system.

20. Beyond establishing a framework to guide system-wide ICT coordination, the United Nations system ICT strategy has identified a significant number of concrete initiatives, of which eight have been selected for priority action: the ICT development network, the ICT services sourcing strategy, common application solutions, knowledge-sharing, enterprise resource planning systems, ICT governance and best practices, business case development and costing, and United Nations ICT training.

21. An ICT Steering Committee, composed of members of the High-Level Committee on Programmes, the High-Level Committee on Management and the ICT Network, provides the overall guidance for further work on the follow-up to the ICT strategy. The CEB secretariat continues to foster and facilitate the exchange of information among ICT strategy groups and organizations through the introduction of best practices in collaborative project management.

IV. Preventing and managing armed conflict

22. An increasingly important focus of inter-agency work is to enhance the system's support for an effective response by the international community to the Secretary-General's call for a strategic shift from a culture of reaction to a culture of prevention. This requires a collective approach to conflict prevention and calls for a deeper understanding of the causes of tensions within and between nations. It also implies a sustained system-wide effort to effectively integrate a conflict-prevention perspective in development programmes at the country level.

23. Building on previous discussions on the subject, CEB has given further consideration to strengthening the system's capacity for conflict prevention. The focus has been on (a) ways in which the United Nations work in the area of preventive diplomacy and mediation can be advanced; (b) furthering thinking on and practice of "structural prevention" to better prepare the system to face the

present-day threats to peace and security — including addressing the prevalence of poverty and inequality that exacerbate social and political tensions; (c) focusing on the immediate post-conflict period as the time when countries are most likely to fall into civil war; (d) strengthening the United Nations system's ability to help countries develop their own conflict-prevention institutions and processes; and (e) ensuring that United Nations strategies to address armed conflicts are far-sighted but realistic, taking into account actual capacities both within and outside the United Nations system.

24. CEB considered that the system's ability to diagnose and help resolve emerging conflicts will be enhanced by drawing more systematically on the diverse expertise that exists in various parts of the United Nations system and by basing the system's interventions on deeper analysis of its comparative advantages, including better utilizing the convening power of the United Nations and its capacity to bring together all actors that can contribute to conflict prevention. It considered that a set of instruments, similar to those developed by the United Nations in post-conflict situations, will also need to be developed in the area of conflict prevention.

25. In the same broad context, CEB stressed that development should continue to be addressed by the United Nations system in its own right, as well as in its linkages with security, especially since marginalization, social exclusion and differential access to natural resources have been identified as important root causes of conflict.

26. Steps identified by CEB to strengthen the system's collective capacity for conflict prevention include:

(a) Strengthening the United Nations system's capacity to act as a mobilizer, helping coordinate the international efforts of all actors to carry out prevention and peacebuilding strategies;

(b) Responding to economic dimensions of conflict in a more strategic way — for example, by exploring links between the management of natural resources and development, security and human rights;

(c) Giving greater attention to the potential threats posed by environmental problems by building additional capacity to analyse and address these threats.

27. CEB agreed that the system must work to ensure that its analysis is better informed by a vision of the interconnectedness of threats and of the different priorities that countries and people have. By deepening its understanding of different risk factors, the system will be able to develop appropriate strategies for mitigating their effects. The system is making progress from the present focus on sharing experiences and information towards more systematic analysis and common strategies for collaborative actions involving organizations of the system, but also non-United Nations actors.

V. Curbing transnational organized crime

28. When it first took up the issue of transnational organized crime, in April 2003, CEB recognized the need for strengthening collective action by the United Nations system in confronting the threats posed by transnational organized crime. Two basic considerations underlay this conclusion. First was that transnational organized crime, while not a new phenomenon, had grown in strength and severity over the

last decade, benefiting from technological innovations and establishing new links with terrorism. Second was the impact that transnational crime had on the key areas of the system's involvement: peace and security, social and economic development, the environment, human rights, democracy and good governance.

29. In 2004, CEB reviewed progress in the implementation of its previous conclusions on the subject and endorsed a package of measures aimed at building an effective system-wide response to curbing transnational crime.

30. Initial follow-up work has resulted in the identification of specific areas on which joint work should focus: links between ongoing conflicts and organized crime; interventions to counter trafficking in human beings and the smuggling of migrants; efforts to stem trafficking in a variety of illicit commodities; and HIV/AIDS in prisons.

31. Other collaborative work, with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime serving as lead agency, is currently under way in the following areas:

(a) Supporting the implementation of the relevant international legal instruments, including the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols on trafficking in human beings, smuggling of migrants and trafficking in firearms, the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the 3 United Nations drug-control Conventions and the 12 international instruments on the prevention of terrorism;

(b) Furthering information collection, analysis and reporting, allowing for system-wide knowledge-sharing on trends in transnational crime;

(c) Developing a preventive approach within the United Nations system, including through awareness-raising and training measures for staff and peacekeepers;

(d) Enhanced cooperation with law enforcement and other relevant international organizations;

(e) Mainstreaming the issue of organized crime and related issues into United Nations development interventions at the country level;

(f) Joint projects in the area of rule-of-law assistance and capacity-building;

(g) Disseminating best practices, including through a knowledge network.

VI. Inter-agency collaboration against hunger

32. The following information on existing mechanisms to coordinate the fight against hunger has been included in the present report in response to a request by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-fourth session.

Collaborative work among United Nations food agencies: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Food Programme

33. Within the United Nations system, three Rome-based United Nations organizations — the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP) — complement and reinforce each other's activities to address the immediate and long-term challenges of fighting hunger and achieving food security. FAO provides technical expertise and policy guidance. IFAD provides loans and grants to help the rural poor to overcome poverty and gain the means to achieve food security. WFP provides food aid to respond to emergencies and contributes to economic and social development through such programmes as food-for-work and school feeding.

34. FAO, WFP and IFAD have developed strong collaboration in operational activities and policy development. At the country level, they are joining their respective expertise and resources to help smallholder farmers and other rural producers to increase productivity and incomes and reduce their vulnerability. By addressing the structural causes of food insecurity and poverty, the three agencies are helping to create the conditions for more rapid and balanced development. They support an approach that combines food assistance to prevent malnutrition with longer-term investments in agricultural production. The results of their actions are immediate access to food and improved livelihoods for populations in need.

35. In the context of emergencies, FAO and WFP carry out needs assessments and help develop a response on food security in coordination with other relief organizations. IFAD supports the efforts of affected peoples to rebuild normal lives by providing assistance to promote the transition to rehabilitation and development.

36. The three Rome-based agencies are also working together on policy issues to highlight the centrality of agricultural and rural development in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. This commitment was reflected in their joint launch, in cooperation with the Government of Italy, of the Millennium Development Project report in Rome.

United Nations system Standing Committee on Nutrition

37. The United Nations system Standing Committee on Nutrition is a partnership among United Nations organizations, Governments and NGOs, with the mandate to strengthen worldwide efforts to fight malnutrition. The Standing Committee analyses trends and raises awareness on nutrition issues, galvanizes action at the global, regional and national levels against malnutrition and promotes cooperation among United Nations agencies and partner organizations in support of national efforts to end malnutrition.

38. At its annual session held in March 2005 in Brazil, the United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition reviewed the experience gained and lessons learned in strengthening food and nutrition components in national development plans to help meet the Millennium Development Goals and realize the human right

to adequate food. Using four country case studies (Angola, Bolivia, Brazil and Mozambique), the session increased understanding of the roadblocks to improving food and nutrition aspects in national development plans. The country case study synthesis presented a series of recommendations to the United Nations and to the four national Governments on how to strengthen efforts in these areas.

United Nations system Network on Rural Development and Food Security

39. The United Nations system Network on Rural Development and Food Security is a global partnership for tackling development challenges at the country level. Established in 1997 by the Administrative Committee on Coordination (now CEB), it brings together key actors for the achievement of the shared goals of food for all and rural poverty reduction. Comprising 20 United Nations organizations, the Network is an inter-agency mechanism for follow-up to the World Food Summit (1996) and World Food Summit: five years later (2002) and supports the International Land Coalition. The Network secretariat is managed by FAO, in close collaboration with IFAD and WFP. Its aims include (a) supporting efforts by Governments and the Network's partners to implement the World Food Summit Plan of Action and rural development and food security programmes; (b) reinforcing ties between United Nations system organizations and other stakeholders, notably NGOs and civil society organizations; (c) fostering synergies among Network members; and (d) exchanging and disseminating information, experiences and best practices.

VII. Strengthening system-wide support for Africa and the New Partnership for Africa's Development

40. Since 2001, CEB has continued to give high priority to engendering and extending effective and coordinated support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). Its main objective has been to provide policy guidance to ensure that United Nations system support for NEPAD remains responsive to the needs of Africa. During 2004, the High-Level Committee on Programmes, on behalf of CEB, undertook an in-depth examination of the system's support for NEPAD in the broad context of the implementation of the Millennium Declaration.

41. The United Nations system's commitment to NEPAD is shown in the readiness of CEB member organizations to align their priorities with those of NEPAD and to refocus existing inter-agency mechanisms on guiding the system's response to the support requirements of NEPAD.

42. As the implementation of NEPAD gathers momentum, African countries are placing growing emphasis on mobilizing financial resources for the implementation of its programmes, on building their technical expertise for the development and management of its programmes and on strengthening their institutions to better help them to achieve its goals.

43. The United Nations system's efforts to scale up support for NEPAD will place particular emphasis on:

(a) Providing assistance in integrating NEPAD priorities into the national development frameworks of African countries. This will, in turn, enable the United

Nations system to align its development support activities behind well-rooted, nationally owned development strategies consistent with NEPAD;

(b) Enhancing policy and operational coherence, including through more systematic communication and information-sharing, in supporting the implementation of commitments on NEPAD at the regional, subregional and country levels;

(c) Strengthening the United Nations system's technical support for the NEPAD secretariat, particularly in the performance of its roles of facilitation and resource mobilization for the implementation of NEPAD programmes;

(d) Expanding the United Nations system's technical and financial support for building institutional, managerial and technical capacities in Africa for domestic and external resource mobilization.

VIII. Increasing the effectiveness and coherence of United Nations system activities at the country level

44. Coherence in the delivery of services by organizations of the United Nations system at the country level, particularly in the context of achieving the Millennium Development Goals, was high on the agenda of CEB during the year, and is expected to remain so in the follow-up to General Assembly resolution 59/250 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development, and the September 2005 High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly.

45. In 2004, CEB took stock of progress in achieving greater coherence of United Nations system activities at the country level and considered further steps to maximize the collective impact of the system as a whole. It considered that one of the ways to achieve a better match between national priorities and United Nations system support of country efforts and a closer alignment of existing tools, particularly common country assessments and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), with national policies and processes was to ensure a more systematic participation of non-resident agencies, many of which are engaged in the productive sector or infrastructure support, in the overall development cooperation effort at the country level. It welcomed the emphasis placed on this objective in General Assembly resolution 59/250.

46. CEB noted that advances had been made in ensuring that the national poverty reduction plan provided the key programme framework in each country; in aligning the common country assessments and UNDAF with national analytical and planning processes; and, more generally, in enhancing the responsiveness of UNDAF and other country programme instruments to national priorities. CEB stressed the need to improve modalities to ensure that the wealth of knowledge and expertise available throughout the system, including among the non-resident agencies, is made available to countries in ways that effectively respond to their needs. Improved dialogue and information-sharing, better knowledge management and increased use of ICT were viewed as the most promising and effective means to that end.

47. With regard to country-level instruments, CEB considered that the effort should focus on making maximum use of existing United Nations system tools and

instruments at the country level, rather than proposing new tools and mechanisms. In the same context, it was underscored that the resident coordinator system bears the key responsibility for harnessing the full potential of the system's knowledge and expertise in support of a country's development, and that for this purpose, a more inclusive mindset within the country teams is necessary and should be accompanied by measures to augment the resources available to the resident coordinator system.

48. Other measures addressed included:

(a) The need to tap expertise at the regional level for country-level activities through improved dialogue and information-sharing by and with country teams;

(b) Greater resort to lead agencies, when this appeared to be a more cost-effective approach, in order to pursue specific objectives at the country level;

(c) The development of new modalities of field representation, such as those being introduced between UNIDO and the United Nations Development Programme;

(d) The designation, at the country level, of focal points to liaise with non-resident agencies, so as to engender better awareness of their services.

49. The General Assembly resolution on the triennial comprehensive policy review is guiding further discussions on these issues at the inter-agency level. The United Nations system is committed to mobilizing all its assets to respond in a concerted and proactive way to the provisions of the resolution. A key result to be achieved is greater integration and alignment of the country-level activities of the United Nations system with national plans and priorities, under the leadership of national Governments. The active involvement of the system is being mobilized across the many different areas of action covered by the resolution, from the simplification and harmonization of processes and the strengthening of the resident coordinator system to monitoring and evaluation activities and capacity-building efforts.

50. To move this agenda forward, the High-Level Committee on Programmes is undertaking a review of the practical implications of General Assembly resolution 59/250 for its work programme and that of CEB. It is pursuing concrete ways for the High-Level Committee on Programmes and the United Nations Development Group to complement each other's work in ways that best exploit their respective strengths in advancing the objectives of the resolution and related conclusions adopted by CEB in 2004.

IX. Safeguarding staff security and safety

51. A main concern of the United Nations system continued to be the strengthening of system-wide security policies and infrastructures. CEB, through its High-Level Committee on Management, endorsed the new unified security management system. It reiterated its view that security, a prerequisite for programme delivery, is a core responsibility of Member States and should be funded centrally under the United Nations regular budget.

52. In view of the decision of the General Assembly to maintain the existing arrangements with regard to cost-sharing for safety and security, CEB, through the

High-Level Committee on Management, agreed to a new approach for the apportionment of 2006-2007 field-related security costs.

53. A number of other security-related issues being pursued include:

(a) Risk and threat assessments, including a risk management model and a recommendation for its immediate adoption by organizations as a tool to enable enhanced security management at the local, regional and headquarters levels; a revised Minimum Operating Security Standards policy as the new baseline standard for security at the field level; and recommendations related to aviation safety, including the need to develop a common aviation safety policy;

(b) Headquarters security, consisting of Headquarters Minimum Operating Security Standards for United Nations system-wide acceptance, including standards for the physical security of headquarters complexes, access control, training, weaponry, etc;

(c) Contingency planning and emergency preparedness, including annual surveys of organizations on actions taken by them to improve their security and emergency preparedness so as to provide guidance for those organizations that have yet to complete their emergency preparedness, and business continuity planning;

(d) Security costs, consisting of oversight of a worldwide census of staff and other employees covered under the security umbrella and including data on numbers of staff by location and contract type as the basis for the sharing of field-related security costs and for the distribution of premiums for the malicious acts insurance policy;

(e) Humanitarian air service liability issues and how organizations should cover the liabilities of their own staff on WFP-administered flights.

X. Enhancing human resources management

54. CEB also continued to provide oversight, through the High-Level Committee on Management and its Human Resources Network, of staff management policies and practices across the system with a view to promoting best practices, harmonization and administrative simplification. Issues addressed included:

(a) Measures to enhance inter-agency mobility, including the adoption by CEB of an inter-agency mobility policy statement;

(b) The development of a new inter-organizational mobility accord to replace the inter-organization agreement concerning the transfer, secondment or loan of staff among the organizations applying the United Nations common system of salaries and allowances;

(c) Initiatives to support staff and dependants living with HIV/AIDS;

(d) Harmonization of various remuneration packages offered by organizations of the common system to staff working at non-family duty stations;

(e) Efforts to provide employment opportunities for the spouses of staff members as an increasingly relevant factor in attracting and retaining staff and ensuring gender balance for jobs around the globe.

55. In response to the request of the General Assembly that the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of CEB, redesignate the Senior Management Service, it was agreed to rename the initiative the Senior Management Network to better reflect its character as a set of collaborative efforts to enhance the managerial capacity and performance of senior staff.

56. In addressing management issues, CEB, the High-Level Committee on Management and the Human Resources Network continued to engage in dialogue with representatives of staff bodies and the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC). As provided for in article 28 of the statute of ICSC, the Human Resources Network continued to coordinate and represent the collective views of the United Nations system executive heads before ICSC on all matters under examination by it.

Strengthening the international civil service

57. Since 1997, executive heads of organizations of the system that participate in the common system of pay and benefits have followed with keen interest developments in regard to the Secretary-General's proposal for a review and strengthening of ICSC. They welcomed the decision of the General Assembly in its resolution 57/285 to launch a panel on the strengthening of the international civil service. After careful review of its findings and recommendations, CEB expressed its deep appreciation for the thoughtful, balanced and constructive report presented by the Panel and strongly commended it to the Assembly.

58. CEB reiterated its strong wish for ICSC to strive towards greater relevance and concrete, tangible results, as a strong foundation for the reform and renewal of the international civil service. This requires a strong adherence to the spirit and the letter of the statute of the Commission, which stipulates that its members should be individuals of recognized competence who have had substantial experience of executive responsibility in public administration or related fields, particularly in personnel management.

59. CEB was deeply disappointed at the position taken by ICSC on the report of the Panel and expressed the hope that the General Assembly would respond in a positive manner to the key recommendations of the Panel.

XI. Improving financial resources management

60. Inter-agency collaboration in the financial and budgetary areas has received renewed attention in the work of CEB through the Finance and Budget Network of the High-Level Committee on Management. The focus has been on:

(a) Accounting standards within the United Nations system, including the review of the United Nations system accounting standards and other international accounting standards with a view to recommending a standard that could eventually be adopted by all United Nations organizations;

(b) Fraud prevention, as a follow-up to a report of the Board of Auditors to the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly (A/59/5, vol. II, chap. II) which, inter alia, requested that the United Nations system establish a corruption and fraud prevention mechanism. Work is being pursued with the objectives of sharing policy

documents and other guidance on fraud prevention, including advice and materials used in management training, and of developing a common framework for risk assessment and a shared definition of fraud, its types and categories;

(c) Results-based budgeting. During 2004, the High-Level Committee on Management considered the results of a study that reviewed different levels of results-based budgeting readiness within the system in terms of, among other things, existing internal results-based management frameworks, information systems, budget management, internal accountability frameworks and internal leadership. The common objective of implementation strategies for results-based budgeting will be to provide a strong framework for accountability, and at the same time put in place means for presenting to both donor partners and recipient countries the competing priorities that United Nations organizations face, and their resource requirements to achieve the mandated outcomes or results. Against this background, the High-Level Committee on Management adopted a common framework for results-based budgeting that can be adapted by each organization of the United Nations system in line with its own requirements;

(d) Simplification of inter-agency financial reporting; policies on support costs and methodological studies on how to report United Nations system spending on security;

(e) The relationship between regular and voluntary funding. Renewed attention is being given within the system to the development of common approaches to address the impact on management and programming of the changing relationship between regular and voluntary funding. A common concern is that the shift in the balance between regular and supplementary funding in favour of the latter may lead to a distortion of programme implementation if regular funding is inadequate to cover a critical mass of budgetary support for basic infrastructure and core activities. In the same context, a common policy has been elaborated for dealing with contributions to which donors attach conditions that affect procurement and staff recruitment.

XII. Pursuing United Nations system oversight

61. CEB member organizations continued to participate actively in the review and follow-up of specific recommendations emanating from oversight reports by the Joint Inspection Unit, the Board of Auditors and the Office of Internal Oversight Services. Priority attention is given to maintaining the highest levels of transparency and accountability, strict compliance with established rules and regulations and enhancing the capacity of the United Nations system for oversight and audit.

62. The main focus of oversight in the programme area is on strengthening programme management and accountability within the system. Relevant oversight reports have focused on (a) the extent of utilization within the United Nations system of results-based management concepts and practices; (b) the evaluation of factors relevant to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, starting with the goal of universal primary education; and (c) linkages between headquarters and field activities in respect of poverty reduction strategies and programme implementation. In the management area, reports have included those entitled "Review of the headquarters agreements concluded by the organizations of the United Nations system: human resources issues affecting staff" (see A/59/526)

"Harmonization of the conditions of travel throughout the United Nations system" (JIU/REP/2004/2) and "Procurement practices within the United Nations system" (see A/59/721). CEB regularly presents its collective views on the system-wide reports of the Joint Inspection Unit to the General Assembly.

63. During 2004, collective views of organizations of the system and related coordination efforts were shared with the Office of Internal Oversight Services in the context of its report on the theme "Linkages between headquarters and field activities: a review of best practices for poverty eradication within the framework of the Millennium Declaration" (E/AC.51/2005/2), prepared in accordance with a request of the Committee on Programme and Coordination (A/59/16, para. 399). The Office of Internal Oversight Services report examined the effectiveness of headquarters/field linkages and identified best practices that should be promoted. The Office of Internal Oversight Services advanced several recommendations that complement the work programme and ongoing initiatives of CEB, including enhancing collaboration among inter-agency coordinating bodies, introducing a more strategic approach to system-wide knowledge management networks and increasing information exchange between country teams and non-resident agencies and regional commissions.

Annex I

Outcomes of work by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and the High-Level Committee on Programmes in the programme area, 2004/05

Issue	*Outcomes*
1. **Preparations for the 2005 comprehensive review of the implementation of the Millennium Declaration**	• Report prepared on the response of the United Nations system to the Millennium Declaration as a contribution to the processes leading to a comprehensive review of progress in the implementation of the Millennium Declaration at the September 2005 High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly. The report, "One United Nations — catalyst for progress and change: how the Millennium Declaration is changing the way the United Nations system works", highlights the new orientation of the United Nations system under the Declaration's broad themes, including poverty eradication and sustainable development, human rights, democracy and governance, and prevention of armed conflicts. It also sets out the main elements for accelerated progress in the decade ahead
2. **Curbing transnational organized crime**	• Adoption by CEB of a package of measures to build an effective system-wide response to transnational organized crime, an issue identified by the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change as one of the six clusters of threats facing the world today • Areas for collaboration identified and inter-agency work under way on: analysis of the links between ongoing conflicts and organized crime; interventions to counter trafficking in human beings and the smuggling of migrants; efforts to stem trafficking in illicit commodities; and HIV/AIDS in prisons • Work in progress on a programme of activities in eight cross-sectoral areas: implementation of the relevant international legal instruments; enhanced knowledge-sharing; development of a preventive approach within the United Nations system; enhanced cooperation with law enforcement and other relevant organizations; inclusion of related issues in development interventions and instruments; joint law assistance and capacity-building projects; promotion of best practices and awareness-raising
3. **Bridging the digital divide**	• High-Level Committee on Programmes-led work under way, in consultation with the International Telecommunication Union High-level Summit Organizing Committee for the World Summit on the Information Society in November 2005, on mainstreaming and integrating information and communication technology into the broader Millennium Development Goal agenda, including through the development of system-wide approaches and guidelines for use at the field level

Issue	*Outcomes*
	• A United Nations system ICT strategy adopted with the aim of enhancing cost-effectiveness, strengthening system-wide knowledge management and enhancing the capacity of the system to support countries in using ICT for reaching the Millennium Development Goals. The High-Level Committee on Programmes is collaborating with the High-Level Committee on Management and its ICT Network to develop the business cases for the ICT strategy
4. Prevention of armed conflict	• Increased interaction and knowledge-sharing between the organizations of the system and the political departments of the United Nations Secretariat to ensure enhanced use of the diverse expertise within the United Nations system
5. System-wide support for Africa's development and the New Partnership for Africa's Development	• An in-depth review of the system's support for Africa and NEPAD and the way ahead for the system, carried out by the High-Level Committee on Programmes on behalf of CEB
6. Increasing the effectiveness and coherence of United Nations system activities at the country level	• Work in progress related to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 59/250 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system. A task force, under the aegis of the High-Level Committee on Programmes, has been created to identify areas requiring a system-wide response to ensure coherence between the operational and policy dimensions of the system's work. It is pursuing concrete ways for the High-Level Committee on Programmes and the United Nations Development Group to complement each other's work
7. Strategies for sustainable development	• Implementation of system-wide approaches to the follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, moving forward in the context of inter-agency collaborative arrangements CEB established in 2003

Annex II

Outcomes of work by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and the High-Level Committee on Management in the management area, 2004/05

Issue	*Outcomes*
1. Safeguarding staff security and safety	• Agreement among CEB member organizations, through the High-Level Committee on Management, on a new unified security management system • A new approach for the apportionment of 2006-2007 field-related security costs agreed upon • A worldwide census of staff and other employees covered under the United Nations security umbrella undertaken. Census data used as the basis for sharing field-related security costs and for the distribution of premiums for the malicious acts insurance policy • A risk management model promulgated as a tool to enable United Nations organizations to enhance security management at the local, regional and headquarters levels; a revised Minimum Operating Security Standards policy adopted as the new baseline standard for security at the field level • Headquarters Minimum Operating Security Standards for United Nations system-wide acceptance, including standards for the physical security of headquarters complexes, access control, training, weaponry and so forth adopted • Annual survey of actions completed by individual organizations to improve their security and emergency preparedness to guide those organizations that have yet to complete their emergency preparedness and business continuity planning
2. Staff management policies and practices	• Harmonization of various entitlements offered by organizations of the common system to staff working at non-family duty stations • Lump-sum approach for the relocation grant introduced • Development of communities of interest/practice and partnerships in management areas with other international organizations, academic institutions and other global institutions • Increased efforts under way to provide employment opportunities for the spouses of staff members, including through collaboration with Permits Foundation and Partnerjob.com
3. Strengthened managerial capacity across the United Nations system	• In response to the request of the General Assembly that the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of CEB, redesignate the Senior Management Service, the High-Level Committee on Management, on behalf of CEB, renamed the Senior Management Service the Senior

Issue	*Outcomes*
	Management Network to reflect its character as a set of collaborative efforts to enhance the managerial capacity and performance of senior staff, in line with existing CEB terminology
	• **Inter-agency collaborative arrangements put in place for the development and implementation of a leadership development programme that would underpin the Senior Management Network**
4. Geographical representation	• **Annual survey on United Nations organizations' policies and practices conducted**
5. Strengthening the international civil service	• **A common position established by CEB on the report of the Panel on the Strengthening of the International Civil Service. While expressing appreciation for the Panel's thoughtful, balanced and constructive report and strongly commending it to the General Assembly, CEB conveyed its disappointment over ICSC comments on the Panel's report and requested the General Assembly to respond positively to the key recommendations of the Panel**
6. Relations with the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC)	• **As provided for under article 28 of the statute of ICSC, continued coordination and representation of the collective views of executive heads of the system before ICSC on all matters under examination by it through the Human Resources Network**
7. HIV/AIDS in the United Nations system workplace	• **Initiatives undertaken through the task force on HIV/AIDS in the United Nations system workplace to support staff and dependants living with HIV/AIDS, including through a revised booklet, a learning strategy, distribution of post-exposure prophylaxes kits; and action report covering guidelines for access to care and support, a training video and other promotional work to sensitize managers, human resources specialists and other staff about the issue across the United Nations system**
8. Inter-agency mobility	• **An inter-agency mobility policy statement adopted by CEB**
	• **New inter-organizational mobility accord developed to replace the inter-organization agreement concerning transfer, secondment or loan of staff among the organizations applying the United Nations common system of salaries and allowances**
	• **Baseline survey on inter-agency mobility designed and conducted**
9. Strengthened staff-management relations	• **Dialogue undertaken with representatives of staff bodies on conditions of employment**
10. Regular maintenance of various statistical databases on behalf of the common system	• **Annual personnel statistics of all organizations of the common system gathered and produced as the only United Nations system-wide report and extensively referred to by Member States, United Nations organizations, ICSC, etc.**

Issue	*Outcomes*
11. Administration of collective agreements with the International Association of Conference Interpreters (AIIC) and the International Association of Conference Translators (AITC) on behalf of the common system	• On behalf of organizations of the common system, coordination of relations with the Associations of freelance interpreters (AIIC) and translators, editors, revisers and précis writers (AITC), including mediating disputes and setting pay rates
12. Development of accounting standards within the United Nations system	• Approved changes recommended to United Nations system accounting standards. Work under way to develop accounting standards for adoption by organizations of the system, together with implications for each organization, and to elaborate recommendations of relevant standards that are more prescriptive and reflect best accounting practices, for incorporation into the United Nations system accounting standards, as appropriate
13. Impact on management and programmes of the changing relationship between regular and voluntary funding	• A policy statement adopted by the High-Level Committee on Management on behalf of CEB recommending that organizations of the system forgo voluntary contributions to which conditions affecting procurement and staff recruitment are attached. Exceptions to be granted by executive heads only when circumstances warrant and kept to a strict minimum • Inter-agency agreement reached on simplified and standardized financial reporting among United Nations organizations
14. Support costs for extrabudgetary activities	• A survey undertaken to draw a global picture and define a common set of principles in the current policies and practices related to the direct charging of execution and support costs to projects and activities financed through extrabudgetary funds
15. United Nations system wide total expenditure on security	• A survey undertaken to assess the total value of security-related expenditures in the United Nations system
16. Financial reporting	• As mandated by the General Assembly, biennial CEB report formulated on the budgetary and financial situations of organizations of the United Nations system
17. United Nations ICT strategy	• A United Nations system ICT strategic framework adopted to guide inter-agency work in this area with agreed priority areas to be pursued
18. United Nations Extranet project	• CEB member organizations now connected to the United Nations system Extranet, which has the capability of hosting applications of interest to member organizations. Further work on the Extranet under way to identify opportunities that meet the shared information needs of United Nations system organizations and networks

Issue	*Outcomes*
19. Procurement issues: global contracts in the ICT area	• Development of a United Nations system ICT services sourcing strategy identified as a priority action for the ICT Network. The resulting business case will determine the best approach for participating United Nations system organizations to consolidate and capitalize on ICT outsourcing opportunities
20. United Nations system search engine	• Work under way to index websites of United Nations system organizations through a United Nations contract with Google

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Application of an intergovernmental organization for observer status with the Economic and Social Council

Letter dated 19 April 2005 from the President of the Union Economique et Monetaire Ouest Africaine to the President of the Economic and Social Council

The West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) was established by a Treaty signed in Dakar on 10 January 1994 by the Heads of State and Government of the seven West African countries that share the use of a common currency, the CFA franc. Those countries are Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, the Niger, Senegal and Togo. The Treaty came into force on 1 August 1994, after it had been ratified by the member States. On 2 May 1997, Guinea-Bissau became the eighth State to join the Union.

UEMOA comprises eight member States which have a total surface area of 3,509,610 square kilometres. In 2004, the total population of the Union was estimated at 74 million of which approximately 52 per cent were women.

The Union's objectives are to:

- Enhance the economic and financial competitiveness of member States within the context of an open and competitive marketplace and a streamlined and harmonized legal framework;
- Achieve economic performance and policy convergence among member States through the institution of a multilateral monitoring procedure;
- Create among the member States a common market based on the free movement of persons, goods, services, capital and the right of establishment of self-employed or employed persons as well as on a common external tariff and common trading policy;
- Coordinate national sectoral policies by pursuing joint action and possible common policies in the following areas: human resources, physical planning,

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agriculture, energy, industry, mining, transport, infrastructure and telecommunications;

- Harmonize, to the extent required for the smooth operation of the common market, the national laws of the member States, more particularly, their tax laws.

With regard to economic and social rights, article 3 of the UEMOA Treaty stipulates that the Union shall act in consonance with the fundamental rights set forth in the 1948 Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the 1981 African Charter of Human and Peoples' Rights.

In terms of national sectoral policies, the following areas are already covered: higher education, vocational training, women's empowerment, health, community physical planning, transport and telecommunications, environment, agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, energy, mining, crafts, industry, culture and new technologies.

The UEMOA Commission budget which stood at CFAF 2,500 million in 1996 (or US$ 5,073,552.34) has grown over the past decade to CFAF 50,135,423,081 (or US$ 101,757,217.07) in 2005.

The operating organs of UEMOA are: the Conference of Heads of State and Government, the Council of Ministers, the Commission, the Parliament, the Court of Justice and the Cour des Comptes.

Advisory organs ("Chambre Consulaire Regionale") and such autonomous specialized agencies as the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO) and the West African Development Bank (BOAD) also help to further the objectives of the Union.

Since the Economic and Social Council is active in the economic, social, cultural, educational and similar fields, UEMOA, as a subregional, like-minded organization, could contribute, within the limits of its resources, to the work of the Council.

Within 10 years, the track record of substantive and lasting achievements of the subregional economic integration space of UEMOA include:

- the establishment, in January 2000, of a customs union reflected in the total elimination of customs duties among members and the institution of a common external tariff which has helped to intensify intra-community trade;
- the multilateral arrangement put in place to monitor macroeconomic performance and policy convergence and which is reflected in the coordination and evaluation of national policies;
- the monograph on national labour and urban informal sector characteristics in member States;
- the harmonization of national accounts among member States;
- the entry into force, in 1998, of a common UEMOA accounting framework termed the West African Accounting System (SYSCOA);
- the institution of a harmonized consumer price index;

- the training of staff on gender perspectives in the preparation of UEMOA plans and policies;

- the formulation of policies common to the eight member States in the agricultural, mining, industrial, women's empowerment and other sectors;

- the implementation of an annual fellowship programme third-cycle (graduate) professional training and support of research fellows.

In 2005, a wide range of programme activities will begin to be implemented, including:

- networking of businesswomen operating in entrepreneurship, trade, agriculture and crafts in order to build their institutional, financial and decision-making capacity;

- forging of various partnerships in order to speed up the female school enrolment by 2015;

- finalization of a study on higher education and the launching of vast reforms in the sector;

- publication of a women's information bulletin to increase awareness and dissemination of information on women in all walks of life;

- UEMOA quality control programme consisting of the establishment of a system for certification, standardization and control of quality within UEMOA;

- establishment of a regional economic programme for the period 2004-2008 which takes into account the Millennium Development Goals and the priorities of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and aims, among other things, at developing industrial activities through the integration of electricity grids, the development and processing of natural resources and the rehabilitation and modernization of transport facilities; and

- operationalization of the regional solidarity bank set up to combat poverty.

Over the past 10 years, UEMOA has established multilateral and bilateral relations and forged partnerships with various institutions including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and its Africa Technical Assistance Centre (AFRITAC) for West Africa, the European Union, and the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF), the *Observatoire economique et statistique d'Afrique subsaharienne* (AFRISTAT), the *Cooperation francaise*, the African Development Bank (ADB), the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Organization for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa (OHADA), the African Union (AU), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the United States Department of the Treasury.

Through the Commission, which is its executing and lead agency, UEMOA is hereby requesting observer status with the Council so that it can contribute to the building of a more equitable world.

Enclosed please find, for your convenience, a copy of the UEMOA Treaty and some background documents which I hope you will find informative.*

I remain available to provide any additional information you may deem necessary.

(*Signed*) Soumaila **Cisse**
Chairman of the Commission

* The documents referred to are deposited with the secretariat of the Economic and Social Council and can be examined by member States upon request.